Oxfordshire Guardian

Didcot, Wallingford & Thame

Weekly leisure guide for in and around Oxford

Thursday, February 22 - Wednesday, February 28, 2018 oxfordshireguardian.co.uk Free

Harwell's plan to become a world leader

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Beans mean funds for our chosen charity

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Don't miss life's precious moments

Learn more about your hearing and the health of your ears at our **Better Hearing Exhibitions**

Hearing loss left untreated affects social and working relationships, emotional health, mental ability, and physical health. Hearing often declines gradually and the person may not realise how much it has deteriorated. This creates stress and miscommunication at home and work and affects quality of life, productivity and self-confidence.

Activities and social situations become less appealing and may be avoided. Music, nature and people are less accessible. Loved ones may have to repeat or act as an interpreter.

The Better Hearing Exhibitions unite leading hearing aid experts in your local area for an event dedicated to those with hearing concerns.

These interactive events, held at venues in your area, are an ideal opportunity for anyone to take advantage of a **FREE Hearing Test,** plus our **Video Otoscope** technology, which gives you the opportunity to see what's going on inside your ear via a colour monitor.

You can also see, try and hear the latest technology with live demonstrations of your ideal hearing aid and benefit from friendly and professional advice on improved hearing. Whether you have questions about how to care for your ears, you're worried that earwax may be affecting you, or you'd like to find out how good or bad your hearing is, these exhibitions are a simple way to find out.

The Better Hearing Exhibition will be at these venues in your area:-

Monday 5th March
HOLIDAY INN OXFORD
Peartree Roundabout, Woodstock Rd, Oxford, OX2 8JD

Friday 9th March
HENLEY HEARING CARE
28 Hart Street, Henley on Thames, RG9 2AU

OTHER VENUES IN YOUR AREA

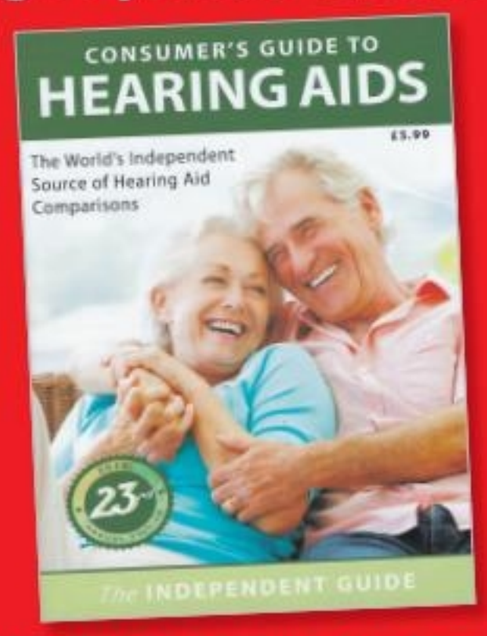
Tuesday 6th March, **BIGNELL PARK HOTEL**
Chesterton, Bicester, OX26 1UE

Wednesday 7th March, **STEVENTON HOUSE HOTEL**
Milton Hill, Steventon, Abingdon, OX13 6AB

Thursday 8th March, **THE SPREADEAGLE**
Cornmarket, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 2BW

These events are always very popular with local residents, therefore appointments are necessary. Unfortunately, if you do not have an appointment we will not be able to see you, so please call to book today.

Our Independent Consumer Guide will **give you the facts...**



Whether it's learning about how hearing works, best resources on living with hearing loss, or what products on the market suit your particular needs, our Consumer Guide is filled with advice, information and guidance to help you make the right choices and decisions about your hearing.

Receive your Consumer's Guide to Hearing Aids FREE (RRP £5.99) **when you book an appointment at our Exhibition**

The **Better Hearing** REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS

Special Offer

Claim your **FREE Exhibition gift** - book your FREE Hearing Test at one of the Better Hearing Exhibition venues. **See back page for details.**

Book your FREE hearing test at one of our Exhibition venues today on **FREEPHONE 0808 168 9640**

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Most Common Cause of **Hearing Loss**

Hearing loss can happen to anyone who is, or has been, exposed to loud noises if the negative conditions are right. For the adolescent and baby boomer segments of the population, the most common cause of hearing loss is prolonged, chronic exposure to loud noises. This is called noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL), and is permanent.

3 TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HEARING

Avoid harmful noise

Musical concerts and movies offer wonderful experiences, but can hurt your hearing. Consider wearing hearing protection if you are in loud commercial, industrial, or recreational environments. Avoid loud rock concerts – or, at least, wear earplugs if you do attend.

Practice healthy lifestyle habits

Making sensible lifestyle choices is great for your overall health and especially your hearing. This means refraining from smoking, eating well and exercising to ensure that your body stay in the best possible shape.

Get your hearing checked regularly

Some hearing problems can be treated if they are caught early. Don't hesitate to ask your doctor for a hearing test if you are feeling uncertain about your ability to hear, or book a FREE hearing test at one of our Better Hearing Exhibition venues.

Which? Best hearing aid provider overview

Following an extensive survey and the views of over 400 **Which?** members who had purchased hearing aids in the last 3 years, independent retailers came out top with a **customer score of 84%**. This score was based on customer satisfaction and recommendation which included levels of service and aftercare.

Better Hearing - **advice you can trust**

Are we qualified?

Our Audiologists hold advanced degrees from accredited universities and have special training in the identification, assessment and non-medical treatment of hearing disorders. They complete a full-time internship, pass a demanding national examination and must be fully licensed. This makes our Audiologists the most qualified to advise you on your hearing

BSHAA British Society of Hearing Aid Audiologists

How long have we been helping people with hearing difficulties?

We have over 35 years of experience and have fitted over ten thousand digital hearing instruments. An audiologist who has fitted thousands of patients is more likely to recognise and solve problems. Our Audiologists will maximise the potential of your hearing instruments by using all the features of your ideal aid, while the less skilled might fail to activate all the hearing aid's capabilities.

How will you determine what is best for my hearing situation?

Our Audiologist will take a detailed history of your hearing problem, your expectations, and lifestyle. In addition, a thorough tone and speech testing assessment will be carried out. Measurements for comfortable hearing levels are also tested.

Our comprehensive testing is to improve your hearing sensibility and re-establish normal hearing perception.

Are there any hearing aid manufacturers you recommend?

As Independent Audiologists, we work with All the hearing aid manufacturers from around the world. Every hearing loss is unique and one manufacturer product line may not meet the needs of everyone! As we work with the world's choice, we are in the best position possible to select the correct device that will match your needs.

The **Better Hearing** REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS **Special Offer**

Claim your **FREE Exhibition gift** - book your FREE Hearing Test at one of the Better Hearing Exhibition venues. **See back page for details.**

The hearing aids I had fitted at the Better Hearing Exhibition are so small and neat that nobody has even noticed that I'm wearing them! The best thing is that I am hearing much clearer even in company or crowded situations. Thank you.

Book your FREE hearing test at one of our Exhibition venues today on **FREEPHONE 0808 168 9640**

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Clearer hearing at the **lowest prices**

Want to hear natural sound? Our new CLEAR hearing aid family from Widex lets you hear as close to natural sound as possible.

CLEAR hearing aids can communicate wirelessly with each other - just like two ears do. This means that all the functions in your hearing aids are adjusted instantly depending on your listening environment. Meaning that even when soft sounds change to louder sounds, you still hear with clarity.

CLEAR also meets the challenge of hearing from different directions. It is the only Widex hearing aid that lets you focus on sound in selected directions without turning your head - perfect if you're driving, for example.

And combined with a unique range of wireless accessories, some of the more difficult listening situations, such as watching television, listening to music or using your mobile phone, are made easier.

Ask us to demonstrate the new Widex Unique range allowing you to hear both soft and loud sounds in comfort. It detects your listening situation automatically and makes sure you hear the right sound at the right time in the right place.

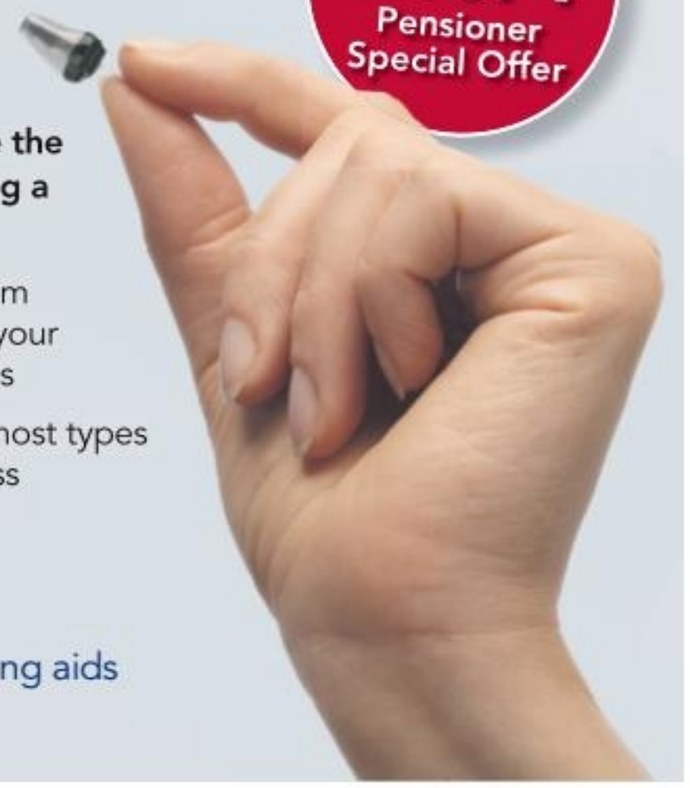
A unique hearing loss NEEDS a unique solution.

Because the Better Hearing Exhibitions are totally independent, we are able to offer our clients the latest technology from leading manufacturers like Siemens, Puretone, GN ReSound, Widex, Starkey and many more.

Puretone · WIDEX high definition hearing · SIEMENS · ReSound rediscover hearing · oticon PEOPLE FIRST · Starkey

Tiny hearing aids. Huge benefits.

Ask about our **2 for 1** Pensioner Special Offer



Our Invisible hearing aids fit completely inside the ear canal, people will never know you are using a hearing aid.

Benefits include:

- Leaves no visible trace of wearing a hearing aid
- Collects sound in a more natural way
- Works perfectly with phones
- Can be custom designed to your specific needs
- Suitable for most types of hearing loss

See, try and hear the latest tiny digital hearing aids during our Exhibition.

The **single solution** to improved vision and hearing

Wearing spectacles with hearing aids can be uncomfortable and awkward. Some people also find it irritating and unnatural to have a hearing aid in their ear.

The ideal solution to these problems may be spectacle hearing aids. Change your personal glasses into a hearing system for an individual, discreet, comfortable solution.

This may be all you need!

- Discreet design
- No hard to use buttons or dials
- Comfortable to wear and easy to use

Ask about our range of spectacle hearing aids including live demonstrations at our Better Hearing Exhibitions.

"I have been taking my dad to Better Hearing Exhibitions for several years for his aftercare service and he loves them!

The Audiologists make him feel comfortable and he always hears much clearer after his visit."

Book your FREE hearing test at one of our Exhibition venues today on FREEPHONE 0808 168 9640

ADVERTISING FEATURE

2 FOR 1 PENSIONER SPECIAL

FREE digital hearing aid* for all over 55s during this event

Book an appointment at our **Better Hearing** Exhibition and receive **without any oblig ation:-**

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- **LIVE DEMONSTRATION** OF YOUR IDEAL HEARING AID
- **FREE CONSUMER GUIDE** WORTH £5.99
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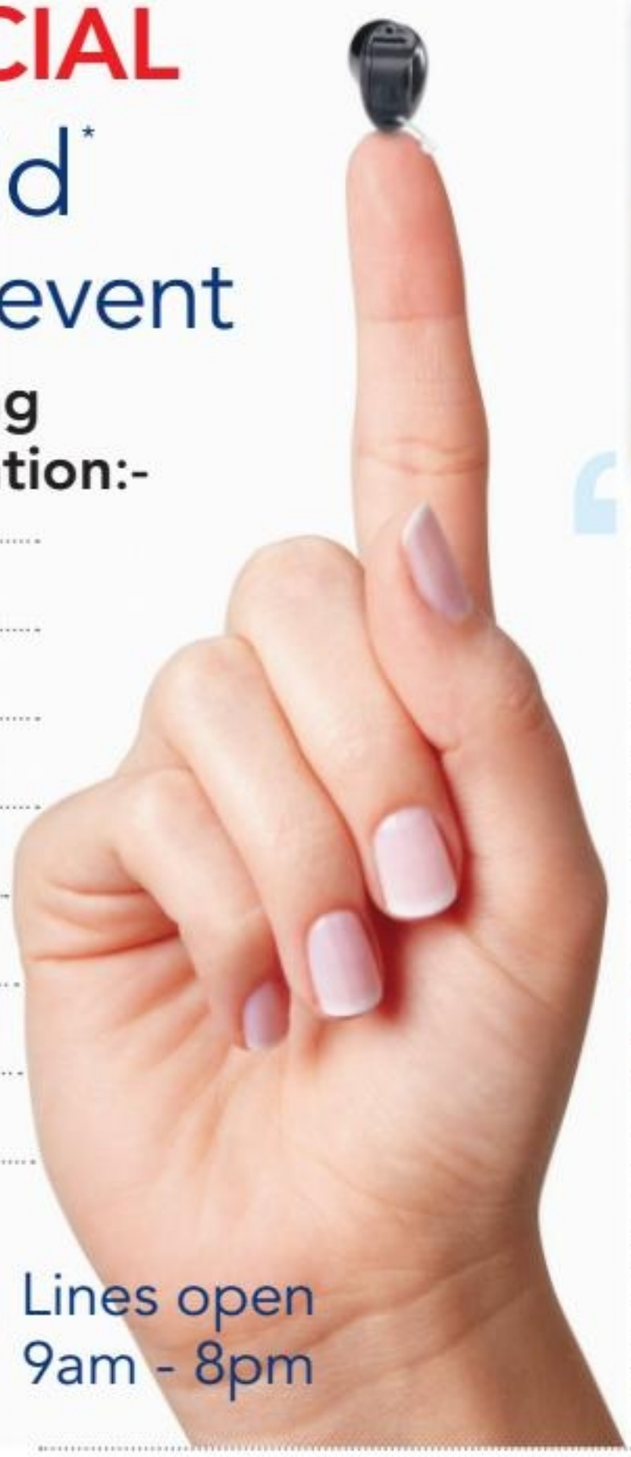
- **WAX REMOVAL CLINIC** WITH OUR QUALIFIED NURSE
- **HEARING AID SERVICING** ON ANY MAKE OR MODEL
- **FREE REFRESHMENTS** SERVED ALL DAY



"My wife kept telling me to have my hearing checked, so we went together to the Better Hearing Exhibition. I returned home with a full understanding of my hearing problem and I've not stopped wearing my hearing aids since."

Home visits

are also available upon request

If you cannot attend the Exhibition, we would be happy to come and see you in the comfort of your own home, any time, 7 days a week. Please call the freephone number to arrange and appointment.

To book your place at the venue of your choice, call **FREEPHONE**

0808 168 9640

Lines open 9am - 8pm

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Our FREE Independent Consumer Guide will give you the facts...

Compare and research the latest tiny digital hearing aids, or see, try and hear them during our Exhibition.

The **Better Hearing** REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS **Special Offer**

To claim your free gift, book your **FREE Hearing Test** at one of our Better Hearing Special Exhibition venues

Two main concerns people with hearing difficulties have are being unable to hear and understand speech on the TV and whilst on the phone.

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Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion.

* Buy one, get one free available on selected products. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or promotion.
Better Hearing Exhibitions. **HEAD OFFICE:** 28 Hart Street, Henley-On-Thames, RG9 2AU. www.henleyhearingcare.co.uk

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'Town expansion is *not* being delayed, we are progressing'

By George Welch

DIDCOT'S future is going in the right direction with the garden town project set to step up a gear next month.

Didcot Garden Town board members will meet on March 19 to discuss how to elect a chair, the structure of the board and governance aimed at future community involvement.

Tony Harbour, the new garden town representative, believes progress is already being made and that the appointment of a board will give the project 'more direction' after claims it was being delayed.

He said: "Next month's meeting will allow the garden town project to be moved forward to ensure we give the people of Didcot a town to be proud of.

"It is essential that all parties work together for the good of the town to progress this scheme without complications and undue delays."

The second phase of the Orchard Centre is expected to be completed in May and work on the Gateway Project, a major scheme transforming the station forecourt, will begin later this year.

Both are considered as two key facets of the garden town plan, which will accommodate 16,000 more homes and 20,000 new jobs over the next two decades.

Mr Harbour refuted the idea that the scheme was being delayed when quizzed at a council meeting last week.

Chalgrove ward member David Turner wanted updates on funding availability and progress made since November, when a bid of £250million was submitted to the government for infrastructure funding.

The Liberal Democrat also wanted clarification on whether the project was being delayed and, if so, if the council's reputation was being harmed.

In response, Cllr Harbour said South and Vale councils, the authorities behind the project, have "done everything possible to secure sufficient funding" and that "a considerable amount of progress has been made".

The Conservative added: "I can also categorically confirm the expansion of Didcot is not being delayed. It is a long-term agenda and the funding and partnerships needed to achieve it will need to grow and sustain over many years.

"The short termism and lack of appreciation of these facts, amply illustrated by the question, remains the most serious risk to the garden town project."

As well as the £250m infrastructure bid, a £6.2m government grant was awarded for the North Perimeter Road last summer.

Cllr Harbour said that, since there is no delay, the council's reputation has been "greatly enhanced", putting the authority in a "much better position to secure more infrastructure funding – not just for Didcot, but for the district as a whole".

Step out and help charities

INTREPID walkers will dust off their walking shoes for a marathon trek around scenic south Oxfordshire this spring.

The challenge will raise funds for two charities – Maggie's cancer care centre in Oxford and Sue Ryder Nettlebed Hospice.

The 26-mile WalkWithMe event – the eighth of its kind – will start and finish at Moulsford School near Wallingford on Sunday, May 13.

The route will take walkers through some 'stunning' countryside, including the banks of the River Thames and the Ridgeway before looping back to the school.

WalkWithMe has raised in excess of £360,000 for a variety of national and local charities.

Walkers can take part for a suggested donation of £50.

To register or for more information visit walkwithme2018.com

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News

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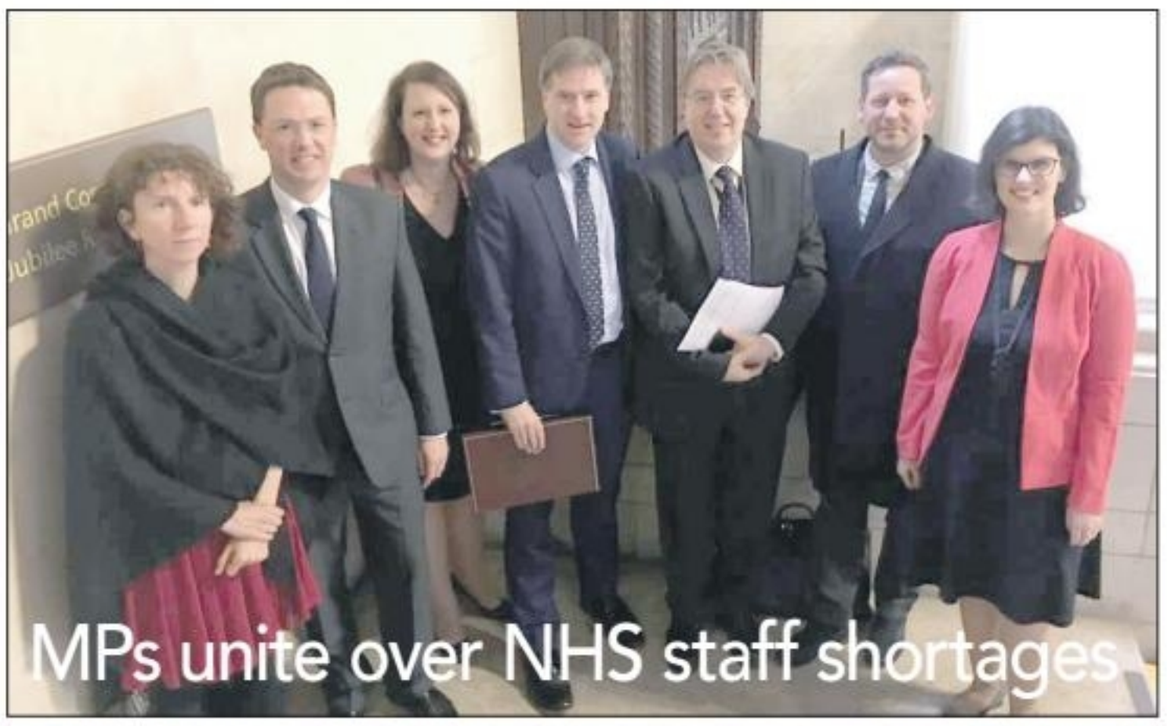

MPs united, from left, Annaliese Dodds (Oxford East); Robert Courts (Witney); Victoria Prentis (Banbury); Steve Brine (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care); John Howell (Henley); Ed Vaizey (Wantage) and Layla Moran (Oxford West & Abingdon)

MPs unite over NHS staff shortages

OXFORDSHIRE'S MPs joined forces to tackle the issue of NHS staffing shortages.

Oxford West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran secured a debate at the House of Commons on Tuesday to discuss ways to drive recruitment and retention of NHS staff in the county.

During the debate, Banbury MP Victoria Prentis emphasised the need to be creative with recruitment ideas, have greater clarity when considering the domino effect of staffing shortages and communicate more openly and transparently.

Speaking after the debate, Mrs Prentis said: "We need to think outside the box and tackle the problems together. We are in urgent need of a vision for our health service and must keep up the pressure."

Murder charge dropped over death of teenager

A MAN who was charged on suspicion of killing a 16-year-old boy in Oxford has had a murder count against him dropped.

Police dropped the charge against Craig Ford, 33, and continue to investigate the incident.

A murder investigation was launched following the stabbing of Harun Jama in Friars Wharf on January 3.

Four days later, Ford, of Luther Street, Oxford, was charged with murder, robbery, possession of a bladed article and two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

Following a review of the case by the CPS and Thames Valley Police last Tuesday, the charges of murder, robbery and possession of a bladed article against Ford were discontinued.

He remains charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

Alice Ashcroft, 25, of Luther Street, Oxford, was also charged on January 7 with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

Senior investigating officer Andy Howard, said: "The investigation remains very active and I would still ask that anyone with any information relating to this offence gets in touch.

"It is essential that we speak to these people."

Two further arrests were made earlier this month. A 45-year-old woman and a 36-year-old man were arrested on suspicion of assisting offenders.

Call 101 if you have any information.

InBrief

Reaper arrests

FOURTEEN people across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire were arrested for evading justice and failing to appear at court.

The wanted criminals were arrested for a variety of offences including assault, burglary and theft.

A total of 96 arrest attempts were made between January 30 and February 1, with 12 men and two women located.

Detective Sergeant Granville Williams said Operation Reaper is "set to continue over the coming months".

Tributes to gentleman

COLLEAGUES and friends have paid tribute to popular sweeper driver Richard Hamilton who died last week.

Streetscene operations manager Ian Thompson said the team are "devastated by the sudden loss of Richard", while friends said they would remember the 71-year-old as a "gentleman" and a "great mate".

Mr Hamilton suffered a cardiac arrest while driving his car along a rural road in Sunningwell on Friday.

Emergency shelter

EMERGENCY night shelter will be provided for homeless people in Oxford over the coming nights with temperatures set to plunge below zero.

Oxford City Council activated its Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP), meaning beds will be provided from this evening (Thursday) until Sunday night. A decision on whether to extend SWEP will be made on Monday.

Night time temperatures in Oxford until Tuesday are forecasted between -1C to -4C.

March 3rd, 2018
10am - 3pm
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ONSITE PARKING
DISABLED ACCESS

Donations cancelled as Oxfam admits mistakes

By Eva Astreinidou

OXFAM'S top executives were told they have to get their house in order after 26 new sexual misconduct allegations came to light.

Chief executive Mark Goldring, chair of trustees Caroline Thomson, and Winnie Byanyima, executive director of Oxfam International appeared before the Commons International Development Committee on Tuesday.

Speaking to the committee, Mr Goldring said there have been new allegations since the news of the Haiti sex scandal broke and he admitted he did not read a report into the misconduct of aid workers after he joined the organisation in 2013.

Summing up the session, MP Stephen Twigg said the committee accepts that safeguarding is an issue for the whole sector, not just Oxfam – but that the charity has to get its house in order.

The committee heard how 7,000 people have now cancelled regular donations to Oxfam.

Speaking to the committee, Ms Byanyima said: "I'm ashamed. I have spent my life trying to stand up for women's rights and to fight for people living in poverty. This is painful for me. Some hideous men came into our organisation and abused the trust of the British people, the supporters."

In a statement released earlier this week, Oxfam apologised for its 'mistakes' as they released a confidential report to be presented to government.

The report into alleged abuse by some of its staff revealed that three of the men accused of sexual misconduct in Haiti physically threatened witnesses during a 2011 investigation.

The report also describes how Oxfam allowed the charity's country director of operations in Haiti, Roland Van Hauwermeiren, to quietly resign in exchange for helping with the inquiry after he "admitted using prostitutes" at his Oxfam residence following the disaster in 2010.

Seven Oxfam employees left the organisation as a result of their behaviour in Haiti that year, the report revealed.

It added that more needed to be done for tighter safeguarding to stop disgraced aid workers moving to new posts.

But several men linked to the alleged abuse subsequently took up roles at other charities, including Mr Van Hauwermeiren.

In an official statement last Friday, international development secretary Penny Mordaunt set out demands that Oxfam needs to fulfil before any more taxpayer cash is given to the charity.

These included outlining how the charity will handle any allegations, that they report staff involved in this incident to their respective national governments, and that they fully cooperate with the Haitian authorities, including handing over all evidence they hold.

Harwell plan to become leading site for research and innovation

By Owen Hughes

HARWELL Campus has unveiled ambitious plans to expand its office and lab space by more than four million square feet across its 710-acre site in the midst of a "new era of industrial revolution".

The new Campus Strategy revealed aims for the science site to develop across its 280+ hectares – about the same size as the City of London.

The strategy is divided into three areas: improving the productivity of the UK economy and the skills of its workforce, stimulating high-tech business growth and supporting UK research and innovation.

Among the strategy's nine ambitions are plans to provide large scale scientific facilities, bespoke accommodation, affordable housing for staff and a wide range of supporting amenities including a hotel, gym and restaurant.

Angus Horner, partner and director of the Harwell Campus Partnership, said: "We are enjoying a new era of industrial revolution, which generates myriad exciting opportunities for the UK to rebalance its economy and redefine itself amongst its international friends as a nation of 'merchant inventors'.

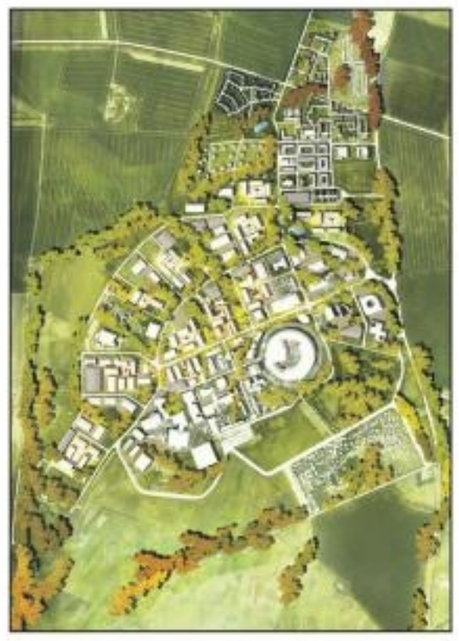
"The UK's success in growing the knowledge economy to become a world leader in multiple fields is reliant on locations such as Harwell, which behave like the crossroads and trading hotspots of previous centuries – where people meet to generate and exchange new ideas."

More than 6,000 people are employed across 250 public, private and academic organisations at Harwell.

Dr Tim Bestwick, executive director of Business and Innovation at the Science and Technologies Facilities Council, said: "Our strategy will firmly place Harwell Campus as a world leading location for research and innovation.

"Building on our long-standing heritage at the forefront of global research, we are creating an environment for businesses and innovation that supports economic growth, with strong multidisciplinary collaboration."

Last year, Harwell Campus received £264million of investment from the government for the new Farady Institution (£65m), Rosalind Franklin Institute (£100m), and National Satellite Testing Facility (£99m).



The Harwell Campus will develop on an area of space similar in size to the City of London and inset, director Angus Horner
Picture: *Hawkins Brown*

Households face £5 per year rise to make areas attractive

COUNCIL tax rises for Vale and South Oxfordshire residents will be spent on making public areas look "attractive".

Both South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council are increasing their share of the council tax by £5 for the year after agreeing their 2018/19 budgets on Thursday and Wednesday last week, respectively.

SODC will use £600,000 over three years to make the area "look more attractive".

A further £1.4million in grants will support community projects and £100,000 will address air quality issues and identify green travel initiatives.

Councillor Jane Murphy said: "Like all authorities across the country, due to reduction in funding available to us, we have had to make some tough decisions on this year's budget.

"Although we've had to raise council tax for the first time in nine years, we have kept this rise to an absolutely minimum of just £5 over the entire year."

VWHDC will spend £750,000 over the next three years on a flagship team to improve public areas and provide £200,000 in grants for community projects, and £20,000 on a feasibility study for electric vehicle charging points.

Leader Matthew Barber said the investment will "ensure that everyone can benefit from the beautiful environment we are blessed with in the Vale".

InBrief

Teenager arrested after park stabbing

A 16-year-old boy has been arrested after an 18-year-old man was stabbed in a Didcot park.

Police were called to the park off Yewtree Crescent and Juniper Way on Great Western Park, at about 8pm on Sunday.

Police confirmed the man was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital with non life-threatening injuries, where he remains in a stable condition.

The teenager arrested on Monday on suspicion of attempted robbery and wounding with intent has been bailed until March 15.

Contact police on 101 with information.

Care home plan

A PUBLIC consultation is under way into a new 70-room care home in Didcot adjoining the Aldi supermarket on Broadway.

Proposals for the care home on the brownfield site include 70 en suite bedrooms, with associated facilities such as a café, cinema and spa, with gardens and parking.

Developers 376 Estates, working in partnership with Care Concern Group, said the home will "provide around 80 jobs at a range of levels" and would "meet an identified need for elderly accommodation" in south Oxfordshire.

The entrance to the nearby Aldi from Broadway will be shared with the development under current designs.

Feedback should be sent to Anna Gillings at anna@gillingsplanning.co.uk or call 02382 358855.

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Chilled, rustic vibe at new coffee shop

HENLEY'S 15th coffee shop has been "inundated" with praise from customers since opening last month with a 16th on the way.

Talia Maguire, 25, from Bracknell, and sister Sophie's fiancé Cam Wykes, 28, from Windsor, invested £10,000 of personal savings into renovating the old Upstairs & Downstairs Tearoom space to realise their dream of creating Drifters.

Sophie, who manages the store's social media and works part time in the shop alongside Talia's girlfriend Millie, said the shop has received praise from customers for being so distinct from its competitors.

She said: "We've been inundated with people praising the store's London vibe.

"We wanted to create a chilled, rustic atmosphere, decorating the shop with pallet wood and drift wood that we collected ourselves. We also play loud music and have board games that have been really popular."

The store has also made efforts to become "plastic free" by using "100 per cent biodegradable coffee cups", not using straws, and selling re-usable bamboo cups "to encourage people to move away from wastage".

County councillor Stefan Gawrysiak told this paper in January that smaller independent outlets were "put off" by high rents, but Sophie said they were "pleasantly surprised" by the affordable rents compared to Cam's hometown.

Visitors to Didcot Railway Centre recreated one of the most well-known scenes in cinema and inset, Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard in the film. Pictures: *Didcot Railway Centre*

Not such brief encounters

PEOPLE of all ages got to recreate an iconic Hollywood moment in celebration of Valentine's Day.

Visitors to Didcot Railway centre replicated the longing look between two strangers, played by Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard, from the 1945 film Brief Encounter.

In the film, the two characters meet at a railway station and gradually fall in love with each other.

Although they are both already married, the two characters continue to meet every Thursday in the small café.

InBrief

Cheers to beers!

GET your pint glasses ready – the biggest booze up in Wantage is back.

Following last year's revival, the eighth edition of the beer festival will once again take over the Beacon civic hall on March 16 and 17.

Twenty-eight ales, five ciders and two perries selected by White Horse CAMRA members, who are organising the festival, are sure to spoil revellers.

The Real Ale awards will be presented on Friday and, in the evening, Oxfordshire musician Al Jenkins will keep drinkers entertained with an acoustic set.

This year's event ties in with rugby's Six Nations 'super Saturday'. Milton's LoveBeer brewery has created a special edition beer for the occasion dubbed Nice Try.

Visit whitehorsecamra.org.uk.

Jewellery theft

MASKED thieves made a clean getaway after raiding the Pandora jewellery shop in Abingdon on February 8.

Burglars broke into the rear of the Bury Street jewellers carrying a blue laundry style bag, before fleeing towards James Court with the stolen items at around 10pm.

Two offenders wore hooded jackets and scarves hiding their faces, while a third wore a bright blue jacket and light coloured scarf.

Call 101 quoting 43180042061 if you have any information.

Drug could help Grace do the 'normal' things

By Owen Hughes

A WALLINGFORD mum refuses to accept the government's decision to deny her daughter access to a life-changing drug.

Grace Bagley, who turns four in April, takes a daily cocktail of medication along with regular physiotherapy to treat her incurable cystic fibrosis.

But mum Zoe, who gave up her job to look after Grace, is campaigning to make Orkambi – a drug that would slow the decline in Grace's lung function by almost half – available on the NHS.

She said: "I've seen so many young people lose their lives to CF knowing there's a drug that can help.

"People can't afford to wait weeks and months waiting for this drug, we need it now.

"Grace had a spell in hospital last spring that was quite traumatic for her and she's been getting night terrors as a result of the treatment.

"To have Orkambi would be great because she's just a normal little girl and wants to do all the other things that other children do."

Grace would need to wait until she was six years old to take the medicine.

Grace Bagley's mum is determined to carry on fighting for her daughter to have a drug that could change her life

In 2016, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) did not recommend Orkambi on the NHS as "the benefits were not sufficient to justify its considerable cost" at £104,000 a year per person.

The issue will again be put to the government on March 19 after an online petition reached more than 113,000 signatures.

The government said it wants patients to "benefit from clinically and cost effective treatments" and would "welcome discussions" between NHS England and Vertex, manufacturer of Orkambi.

A spokesperson for Vertex said it shared the CF community's "sense of urgency" and last week submitted a new portfolio approach to NHS England that would offer "fair and equal access for CF patients".

Lynsey Beswick, from the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, said: "Orkambi has been licensed for use in the UK for more than two years, however it is not available through the NHS.

"If it was available, it could benefit around half of those with cystic fibrosis in the country."

The Trust said it urges people to write to their MP to take part in the parliamentary debate.

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News

Customer relations officer Jade Dixon with some of the lost property

Where did I put that suitcase of spuds?

A SUITCASE containing two mannequins' heads, another full of potatoes and a rucksack filled with adult toys.

Those are just a few unexpected items left on buses across Oxfordshire last year.

The Oxford Bus Company revealed the weird and wonderful items which were lost by passengers last year.

It said staff recorded more than 4,000 items which were left on its services – but less than 1,000 were reclaimed by passengers.

Other surprising items to be left on buses include a pair of teeth, a trumpet, a Soviet Union hat and a monocle.

A dog skeleton Halloween costume, ski sticks and an electric bike were also abandoned.

Jade Dixon, customer relations officer, said: "We always seek to reunite passengers with their belongings and we encourage everyone to check they have their personal items before leaving our buses. Unfortunately a lot of things do get left behind, and we hold them for a fixed period in case they are claimed, so it is always worth getting in touch if you've lost something.

"Clothing and mobile phones are commonly left on buses, but we do collect a lot of unusual items as well."

Unrecovered items are donated to charities and a large handover of clothes and household goods was made to Sobell House last month.

Bus company employee stole for gambling habit

By George Welch

A BUS employee who scammed his firm out of almost £750,000 has been jailed for four years.

Colin Smart, of Crundel Rise, Witney, admitted stealing the cash – £733,737 – from the Oxford Bus Company between April 2011 and March 2017.

The 47-year-old 'abused his position' as a business analyst at the Cowley-based company to fund his gambling addiction.

Smart stole cash that had been collected from kerbside ticket collectors.

He was one of the staff responsible for recording the money onto a computer system once it had been counted – he then manipulated the computer records to conceal the theft.

Instead, the ill-gotten gains were deposited into his personal bank accounts and used for gambling online.

His gambling losses outweighed his wins and he continued to fund his lifestyle, including expensive cars, by stealing from the company.

Smart, who worked at the company for more than 28 years, had his six-year scam rumbled after money transfer company PayPal flagged up suspicious activity.

The married father-of-one was convicted of fraud by abuse of position, theft by employee and concealing/disguising/converting/transferring /removing criminal property.

He pleaded guilty to the fraud and theft offences at a previous hearing at Oxford Crown Court on October 20 last year and pleaded guilty to the remaining offence last Friday.

The bus company's managing director, Phil Southall, said: "We were deeply shocked and disappointed when we discovered Mr Smart had betrayed the trust we put in him over the 28 years that he had worked for the company.

"We will be robustly seeking to retrieve as much of the money that was taken as we can."

Mr Southall stressed that the company's systems and procedures "have been further tightened", adding: "This is an extremely rare act executed by someone who exploited a loophole that only someone in his position could have discovered."

Brexit bus stopping in Oxford on 'true cost' tour

A BUS emblazoned with 'Brexit to cost £2,000million a week' will park up in Oxford's Broad Street on Monday.

The tour bus, which mocks Vote Leave's campaign-winning red bus that claimed the UK sends the EU £350million a week, will pass through the city as part of a national 33-stop tour.

It will be decorated with figures based on a leaked government report which claimed a hard Brexit would cost the country five per cent of GDP after 15 years.

This is an estimate of the loss of GDP relative to where the economy would have been without Brexit and adds up to more than £100bn in today's money.

"To put this in context, that is 80 per cent of the NHS budget across the UK," Charles Seaford, one of the organisers, said.

Pro-EU group Oxford for Europe said it is worried about the 'endangered' Cowley car industry and the 'at risk' nuclear research at Culham.

The aim of the tour is to get 'soft leave' and undecided voters to ask themselves 'is it worth it?'

The 'Brexit is it worth it' Bus will be outside Balliol College at 2.45pm. The public event starts at 2.15pm.

Douglas House 'rescue mission' unlikely despite strong support

By George Welch

HELEN & Douglas House has said it is "enormously grateful" to the thousands of people who have rallied to save one of its two houses – but stressed it is 'highly unlikely' any rescue mission would be successful.

Our charity of the year expressed its gratitude this week after announcing it will close Douglas House, its adult care centre in East Oxford, in August.

The announcement sparked a widespread campaign for government funding, and, as we went to press, 46,932 people had signed a petition to 'Save Douglas House'.

But while the hospice is thankful of the support, Helen & Douglas House emphasised the closure "cannot be reversed in the short term".

Director of fundraising and marketing Hazel Bedford said that even with government money it would not be enough to backtrack on the closure.

A fresh plea asking people to donate more regularly to ensure the survival of Helen House, which provides specialist palliative care for terminally ill children and young people aged 0-18 years old, was made this week.

"We are enormously grateful for the support we have received from our supporters and our families to try and keep Douglas House open," Ms Bedford said.

"Sadly from our perspective the decision to close Douglas House cannot be reversed in the short term without new substantial, sustainable income year-on-year of over £2million a year.

"Even if Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group give us a contribution to the care of patients from Oxfordshire, this will not be enough to keep Douglas House open and is not guaranteed year-on-year."

Ms Bedford stressed the closure was "a last resort" and the charity was "acutely aware of the impact on lives of young adults and their families".

She added: "We do not underestimate the effect this decision will have on everyone and we are truly sorry for this.

"The choice was between closing part of the service now or doing nothing and allowing the entire service to close in a couple of years. We could not allow this to happen."

Visit tinyurl.com/ycgq3o9t to donate to Helen & Douglas House.

Helen & Douglas' fundraising efforts are now focused on securing the long-term future of Helen House, which provides specialist palliative care for terminally ill children and young people up to the age of 18, such as the Smith family, pictured here enjoying a craft session

Find out more about what people have been doing to raise funds for Helen & Douglas House >> Page 15

InBrief

Uni staff on strike

STAFF from Oxford University are expected to go on strike today (Thursday) as part of a wave of strikes hitting 64 universities across the UK in a row over pensions.

As many as 42,000 staff at 64 institutions will walk out today and tomorrow in the first of 14 days of strikes that run until March 16.

There will be no 'make-up' classes or lectures for students.

Oxford Brookes staff are unaffected.

Brothers jailed

TWO brothers have been jailed for 10 months after handling £2,000 worth of presents stolen from an Oxford home on Christmas Eve.

Daniel Webb, 34, and Matthew Webb, 36, both of no fixed address, denied burglary but admitted handling stolen goods.

Five bin bags of wrapped gifts, toys and clothes were taken from a house in Walton Street, Jericho on December 24.

Prosecutors accepted the pleas and not guilty verdicts for the initial count of burglary.

Store's security plan

WANTAGE Waitrose wants to install a number plate recognising camera and a ram-raid-proof bollard in its car park following a series of ram-raids at supermarkets across Oxfordshire to steal cash machines.

View plans at tinyurl.com/ybul73a5

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InBrief

Chickens rescued

RABBITS and chickens made it out unscathed after a fire at a farm in Preston Crowmarsh, near Wallingford, tore through storage buildings.

The animals were moved to safety by firefighters, who battled the blaze at 7.30pm on Thursday last week.

Station manager Gary D'anger said: "Our crews worked really hard to make sure that the animals weren't affected by the fire and to try and save as much of the property as possible."

A number of storage sheds, poultry runs and stables were engulfed in flames by the time crews from Wallingford, Didcot, Abingdon and Kidlington were on the scene.

Most of the structures were empty and no one was hurt. Specialist fire investigators and the police are still looking into the cause.

BAFTA night glam

ACTRESS Florence Pugh took to the red carpet on Sunday night for the Bafta Film Awards.

The 22-year-old former St Edward's, Cokethorpe and Wychwood schools pupil was one of five nominees for the Rising Star award.

The prize was won by Daniel Kaluuya, who impressed critics for his role in horror film Get Out.

Pugh was one of many stars who wore black to the ceremony in support of a campaign against sexual harassment in the industry.

Thames Valley Police's recording of crime 'inadequate' as

'Money better spent on a PCSO than on helmets'

PLANS to restore the classic British police helmet to Oxfordshire's frontline officers' uniforms have been slammed as "style over substance".

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld recently said the helmets – which could cost around £30,000 to reintroduce in the Thames Valley – would give officers "status" and boost visibility.

City councillor Tom Hayes said the commissioner should "think again" before bringing back police helmets for "practically the same cost as a full-time PCSO for a year".

He added: "The Police and Crime Commissioner's plan to boost visibility is a triumph of style over substance.

"You don't get visible policing by putting on helmets, you get it by putting more officers on the streets.

"When St Clement's residents ask what they're going to see get better for paying an extra £12 on council tax, I have to tell them: nothing.

"The monies raised ensure the police won't face deeper cuts when the police really need extra investment."

A trial of helmets is currently taking place in Reading.

A spokesperson for Thames Valley Police said: "The Force keeps uniform needs under review to ensure it continues to meet policing requirements.

"This, and the views of the Police and Crime Commissioner, will also inform this process of deciding any changes to officers' uniforms."

Sponsorship an option for future of the Force horses

POLICE could have to resort to sponsorship to save the mounted section after the chief constable of Thames Valley Police refused to offer reassurances on the unit's future.

Scrapping the division in its entirety by 2019 was considered by the Force at a recent budget meeting in response to financial pressures.

An increase in the police portion of council tax spared the horses but a review of its long-term future continues – and sponsorship is a possible solution.

Chief Constable Francis Habgood met the mounted section earlier this month but, despite acknowledging its role in policing, could not assure its long-term future.

In a statement last week he said: "We agreed that over the next few months they will collate additional data around their deployments, the income they generate from other forces and their costs.

"They will also explore opportunities for using special constables within the team and further funding streams, for example through sponsorship. We agreed that we would meet again in October."

A petition urging the Force to retain its horses has picked up more than 1,200 signatures.

Mr Habgood added: "I have made no promises about the mounted section

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plans for helmets and future of mounted section criticised

Sexual offences among the crimes unrecorded

By George Welch

THOUSANDS of reported crimes including rape, assault and domestic abuse are going unrecorded by Thames Valley Police, a watchdog has warned.

A damning report, published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary last week, branded the Force as 'inadequate' in its accuracy of recording crimes, adding that many victims are being let down.

The assessment of the sub-region, which includes Buckinghamshire and Berkshire as well as Oxfordshire, found that nearly one in five offences (19.6 per cent) were not properly recorded, equating to approximately 35,200 crimes a year.

Crimes that are going unrecorded by the Force include sexual offences, domestic abuse and rape.

Inspector Zoe Billingham said: "I am disappointed with the quality of crime recording in Thames Valley.

"Although the Force has implemented the recommendations from our previous crime recording inspection in 2014, we found that

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber

almost one in five crimes in Thames Valley are not being recorded properly – that equates to approximately 35,200 crimes a year.

"I am satisfied that the Force works very hard to ensure that victims of crime, especially vulnerable victims, are safeguarded.

"It now needs to ensure that it records crimes at the earliest opportunity, and that there is proper supervision of crime recording decisions."

TVP records around 80 per cent of crimes reported to it, yet thousands of crimes each year go unrecorded.

Inspectors found that 13,900 (30.8 per cent) reports of violent crime, 22 (12.6 per cent) reports of rape and 490 (9.8 per cent) reports of sex offences go inaccurately recorded each year.

TVP said it "fully accepts" the grading by HMICFRS and will address concerns raised.

Deputy Chief Constable John Campbell said the report "makes for unwelcome reading", adding: "We accept the findings of HMICFRS and will be working hard over the coming months to ensure that we address their concerns."

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber said it is "vital" that victims are supported appropriately when reporting a crime, adding that he was "disappointed" with the report findings.

He added: "Clearly there is work that needs to be done by Thames Valley Police to improve the level and accuracy of crime recording."

The crimes analysed were between February 1 and July 31 last year.

in the future as with the uncertainty about future budgets that would be reckless, but I can assure everybody that I am working with the team to ensure that any decision is made using the best evidence around their contribution to policing in Thames Valley."

Two men sought after knife threat to boy aged 14

A 14-year-old was threatened at knifepoint by two men who demanded to be let into his home.

The incident took place in Abingdon on February 12 at around 9pm down the alleyway connecting Preston Road to Saxton Road.

Two men approached the boy and asked to be let into his house.

When the boy said no they assaulted him before threatening him with a knife.

The pair then fled the scene.

The boy suffered injuries to his face but did not require hospital treatment.

Police are now appealing for information.

The first offender is described as a white man, aged between his late teens and early twenties, around 5ft tall, of large build with short brown hair and light facial hair. He had a deep voice and was wearing a dark coloured coat with a fur lined hood and jogging bottoms.

The second offender is also described as a white man in his late teens or early twenties. He is approximately 5ft 7ins tall, slim with short dark hair. He was wearing a black hooded top, black trousers and a yellow JD bag with drawstrings.

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News

Helping to launch job opportunities

Pop-up business school for all

By Eva Astreinidou

PEOPLE in social housing across Oxfordshire need to be given the tools to 'thrive, not just survive'.

That is the vision behind several projects that are being launched by housing association Soha.

The community-focussed housing provider is now in the fourth year of running its employment training programme, Launchpad.

The scheme has gone from strength to strength and is expanding beyond just its tenants, to help people think about their options for employment and to support them in taking their next step.

Last week, the provider announced its plans to help launch a pop-up business school at the Orchard Centre in Didcot for a week starting March 19.

Working alongside start-up training company PopUp, Soha hopes to help start more than 50 businesses.

The week-long, free workshop, will teach aspiring entrepreneurs everything they need to know from how to start a business without any money, how to generate sales from social media, to making a website without any technical skills.

Soha's chief executive Richard Peacock said: "I'm really proud that Soha is a community based social business. This is a great step forward for our Launchpad project, which has already supported many local people to gain valuable experience and skills."

The programme has been backed by South Oxfordshire and Vale district councils.

Also backed by the European Social Fund and Skills Funding Agency, the free Launchpad programme has enabled more than 100 people to take their next step and gain access to courses and mentoring, learn new skills and gain employment.

This spring, the programme is set to launch two different courses in addition to the PopUp school.

Play-Way, a course that will support people who want to work with children, will be held at the Berin Centre in Berinsfield on February 28, March 7 and 14 from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

In addition, there will be a course inviting people to learn what it's like to work in the care sector – this will be held at the Soha boardroom in Didcot on March 12, 19 and 26 between 9.30am and 2.30pm.

Helping Baby to grow up

A TINY kitten found abandoned in a cardboard box by some shop bins in Carterton has found a new home.

Five-week-old Baby was found all alone by a passing cyclist who heard her desperate meows.

She was taken to Burford animal charity Blue Cross who, as well as naming the kitty, gave her some much-needed TLC.

Baby was very thin, covered in fleas and terrified by even the smallest noise or movement, which staff put down to her "terrifying experience" of being dumped outside in the cold.

She is now in the loving care of one of their foster carers where she will grow in confidence in a home environment before being put up for rehoming.

Her foster carer Stacey Calladine said: "When Baby first arrived she was worried by even the smallest noise or movement but taking things at her own pace, she has really come out of her shell.

"She is now a bold, brave and friendly kitten who we are very happy to see go off to a loving new home."

Jenna Martyn, senior rehoming manager at Blue Cross, urged people to take animals to the charity if they feel they can no longer look after them. She stressed staff do not judge when animals need to be rehomed.

Blue Cross can be contacted on 0300 777 1570.

InBrief

Cornbury line-up

ICONIC 90s singer Alanis Morissette has been announced as the first headliner of this year's revived Cornbury Festival.

Mavis Staples, Amy MacDonald, Nina Nesbitt and Pixie Lott also join the line-up for the 15th instalment set to entertain festival goers on the weekend of Friday, July 13.

Megan McKenna, P.P. Arnold, Grainne Duffy, Kolars, Southern Avenue, Ten Millenia and The Adelaides complete the list of artists confirmed for Saturday.

The rest of the Cornbury line-up will be announced on March 1.

The festival announced late last year it was making an unexpected return to Great Tew Park near Chipping Norton after initially declaring 2017 would be the last one.

Saturday tickets and weekend tickets went on sale last week at cornburyfestival.com

Growth deal backed

MORE councils have given their backing to the government's £215million Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

Vale of White Horse District Council cabinet recommended agreeing the deal that could secure £150m of infrastructure funding and £60m for affordable housing.

West Oxfordshire District Council also backed the deal that would support the delivery of around 100,000 homes and deliver major upgrades in key areas such as the A40.

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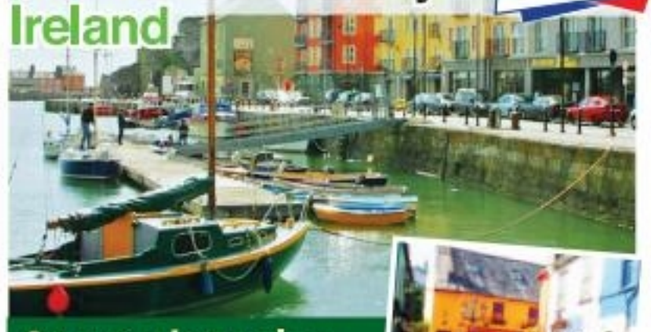

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Here's the full details...

Day 1: Join our coach this morning on a leisurely journey into South Wales as we head for Pembrokeshire and board the 2:30pm Ferry to Rosslare in Southern Ireland. Arrive in good time for dinner and a relaxing first evening in Ireland.
Day 2: A trip to the city of Kilkenny. On the way we travel through the beautiful scenery of the Nire Valley region.
Day 3: A trip to Ireland's third city of Cork which is a fascinating city and important sea port. On the way to Cork we also stop a while in Cobh (pronounced 'Cove') a very nice, quiet coastal town with a beautiful Cathedral. Cobh is famous as the last port of call of the Titanic on its maiden voyage in 1912.
Day 4: Today is left free so you have a chance to explore Dungarvan at your own pace.
Day 5: We leave after an early breakfast and catch the 9am ferry from Rosslare back to Pembrokeshire then continue home to your original joining point.

Lawlors Hotel, Dungarvan ★★★
Lawlors Hotel is situated in the heart of the historic town of Dungarvan and near local shops and sights. 94 bedrooms with full facilities, well-presented reception, restaurant and bar/lounge.

Coach departs: **Monday 14th May £279**

Price includes: **4 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach, ferry travel and trips out.** *Single Room Supp. £75*

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Torquay

★ ★ ★

4 Days £219

The Headland Hotel is Torquay's highest-rated 3-star hotel and once you've enjoyed their superb hospitality, food and facilities you'll know why!

Here's the full details...

Day 1: We arrive at the Headland hotel this afternoon where we stay for 3 nights including 5-course dinners, sumptuous buffet breakfasts and entertainment each evening.
Day 2: Today we visit the charming small Devon towns of Sidmouth and Dawlish.
Day 3: This morning we see Dartmouth - one of Devon's most picturesque harbour towns.
This afternoon we are back in Torquay to enjoy some time in resort.
Day 4: We leave for home after a last, hearty 'Headland' breakfast to see us on our way.

Headland Hotel, Torquay ★★★
- Torquay's highest-rated 3 star hotels.
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- Set in beautiful grounds leading to cliff topwalks with gorgeous views.
- Features: 5-course dinners and nightly entertainment.
- All 78 guest rooms have full facilities. Lift.
- Complimentary Devon Cream tea during your stay.

Coach departs: **Friday 13th April & Friday 27th April £219**

Price includes: **3 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast & trips out.** *Single room supplement £21*

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Here's the full details...

Day 1: We arrive at Lakeside late afternoon. Check in, settle-in and look forward to your first evening of a good dinner and great entertainment later.
Day 2: A trip to the historic city of Winchester. It's amazing Cathedral one of the oldest in the country (begun in 1079) - a must-see while you're here. Also see the old city centre, with its narrow pedestrian streets and overhanging medieval buildings. Of special interest are the Pentice, a group of old shops arcaded at the front, and the Butter Cross, dating back to the 15th century and built with a tax levied on people caught eating butter during Lent.
Day 3: A trip to the pretty riverside town of Arundel - dominated by its beautiful Castle.
Day 4: Enjoy a last, hearty 'Warner's' breakfast to see us on our journey home today.

Coach departs: **Friday 27th April £209**

Price includes: **3 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast & trips out.** *Single room supplement £20*

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5 day coach holiday

★ ★ ★ ★

5 Days £296

A most relaxing holiday... exploring the idyllic scenery and rich heritage of Suffolk - a county which inspired the famous artist 'Constable!'

Here's the details... ★ ★ ★ ★

Day 1: Join the coach this morning as we make our way to our hotel on the outskirts of Colchester.
Day 2: This morning we visit the National Trust attraction of Flatford Mill on the River Stour. The Mill and Willy Lott's House are instantly recognisable since they feature in many paintings by John Constable. In the afternoon we visit the beautiful Beth Chatto Gardens. Started from an overgrown wasteland 1960 with poor gravel soil, it has been transformed into gardens that are an inspiration to anyone who visits them. You'll learn more about the history and philosophy of Beth Chatto during your visit.
Day 3: This morning we visit the capital of East Anglia - Bury St Edmunds, famous for its beautiful Abbey Gardens and the Angel Hotel, where Dickens had Mrs Pickwick stay. This afternoon we stop a while in the lovely, typically English village of Lavenham, with its many half-timbered buildings and famous crooked house. ***A cream tea in Lavenham is included.***
Day 4: Today we visit one of the finest moated Tudor Houses in England - Kentwell Hall. Not so much a 'stately home' but very much a lived-in and loved family home.
**At times when Kentwell Hall is closed to the public we visit the National Trust property 'Melford Hall' which is nearby.*
Day 5: We leave for home after a last hearty breakfast to see us on our way.

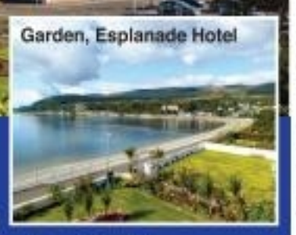
Marks Tey Hotel, Colchester ★★★★
See website for full details.

Coach departs: **Monday 23rd April £296**

Price includes: **4 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach and trips out.** ***Single room supplement*** *£90*

Dunoon
Scottish Highlands

7 Days £366



All the way to Scotland with an overnight stop in Liverpool and 4 nights in the very scenic Scottish Highlands...

Here's the full details... ★ ★ ★

Day 1: On our way to Scotland we stop overnight in the vibrant, friendly city of Liverpool.
Day 2: We head to Gourock in Scotland and take the ferry over to Dunoon. We stay for 4 nights at the Esplanade Hotel.
Day 3: A scenic meandering drive to Loch Lomand. After a while in Loch Lomond we visit the attractive seaside town of Helensburgh.
Day 4: We'll enjoy another picture-postcard drive through the Argyll Forest and along the shores of Loch Fyne and spend time in Inveraray.
Day 5: Today is left free so you can explore Dunoon at your own pace.
Day 6: We leave Scotland and break our journey home with an overnight stay in Lancashire at the Legacy Hotel.
Day 7: We complete the final leg of our journey home.

Esplanade Hotel, Dunoon ★★★
The Esplanade Hotel is located on West Bay Promenade and close to all local amenities. This lovely 3 star is one of Dunoon's foremost hotels, family owned and run by a very friendly, caring and professional team. Inside, the hotel is well-presented throughout from the public areas to the guest rooms with full facilities (ensuite, TV, phone, hairdryer, tea/coffee) and lift to all floors.

Coach departs: **Sunday 29th April £366**

Price includes: **6 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach and ferry travel and trips out as shown.** ***S.S. £75***

Lancashire
Coast & Countryside

★ ★ ★

From the beaches of sunny Southport to the rolling green hills of lush, Lancashire countryside...

5 Days £296

Here's the full details...

Day 1: We arrive at our hotel this afternoon where we stayfor 4 nights.
Day 2: You'll see Carnforth railway station, the restored and celebrated location of the movie 'Brief Encounter' and then a private tour of historic Leighton Hall - former home of the famous 'Gillow' furniture-making dynasty.
Day 3: We visit Skipton. Frequently voted one of the nicest towns in England. Boat trip also included.
Day 4: A trip to sunny Southport, a classic Victorian seaside destination.
Day 5: We leave for home after breakfast.

Marriott Hotel, Preston ★★★★
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Coach departs: **Monday 14th May £296**

Price includes: **4 nights D/B/B basis with coach travel and trips out as shown.** *Single room supplement £100*

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GB TOURS

The ambulance service is asking drivers to slow down after attending this incident in Wheatley

Take care on icy roads plea

MOTORISTS have been warned to slow down on icy roads after this driver in Wheatley ended upside down.

Police and paramedics were called to the accident on Sworford Lane after the driver lost control of his car, flipped over and ended up on the grass verge.

The incident happened shortly before 7.30am on Friday.

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) tweeted the picture and said: "Take extra care as it is icy in our region. The driver of this car in rural Oxfordshire had a lucky escape earlier and was uninjured. Slow down."

SCAS confirmed the driver escaped unharmed after the single-vehicle collision at the top of the hill near the Little Milton turn off.

Temperatures across Oxfordshire have plummeted again this week.

Thousands experience earth tremor

PARTS of Oxfordshire shook on Saturday afternoon as a magnitude 4.6 earthquake hit south Wales.

Tremors from the seismic shaker in Cwmllynfell near Swansea could be felt further north than Leeds and as far east as Suffolk, rumbling through Oxfordshire at around 2.30pm.

The British Geological Survey received reports from several thousand people who felt the quake.

BGS said: "Events of this magnitude only happen in the UK every two to three years."

The earthquake is the largest on mainland Britain since a magnitude 5.2 quake struck in February 2008.

Helping children cope with death

By George Welch

A NEW initiative launched by an Oxfordshire hospice hopes to help youngsters across the county deal with death.

Sobell House's project wants to open up end of life discussions with children in Years 2 to 5.

The Churchill Hospital-based hospice hopes it will help children, teachers, carers and parents better understand dying, death and bereavement.

Tim Harrison, clinical lead for Sobell House and consultant in palliative medicine, said: "The issue of not knowing what to say to children when they lose someone often leads to adults saying nothing at all, which can result in a child feeling more isolated and alone.

"Our schools project looks to change this.

"We want to open up the discussion and help teachers, carers and parents understand how the subject should be approached with children when it's needed to be."

The education programme is in conjunction with the annual national Dying Matters campaign, which runs from May 14-20.

Each participating school will receive a resources pack with specially designed lesson plans developed by Katie Hannaford, a Year 4 teacher at St John's School in Wallingford.

The teacher, who lost her dad aged 22, said: "I've had bereaved children in my classroom and it has been very difficult to know how best to support them and how the matter should be managed with the individual in mind, but also the whole class.

"It breaks my heart to think of a child going through a bereavement and not knowing how to talk about it."

According to Gary Rycroft, chair of the Dying Matters Forum, 20,000 young people in full-time education will lose a parent or sibling while thousands more will lose grandparents, other family members, friends and pets.

He said: "This initiative is really helping overcome that problem and offering a solution to the challenge we all face when experiencing death of a loved one."

Dying Matters Week will finish with a fundraising 5k Forget Me Not family run at Startfield Brake in Kidlington.

Visit tinyurl.com/y8txt3qo for more information and resources.

Picture: *David Nadlinger/ Oxford University*

Tiny dot wins

AN image of a single Strontium atom captured by physicists at Oxford University has won a science photography prize.

Shot by David Nadlinger at the Clarendon Laboratory at the university's department of physics, the image is described

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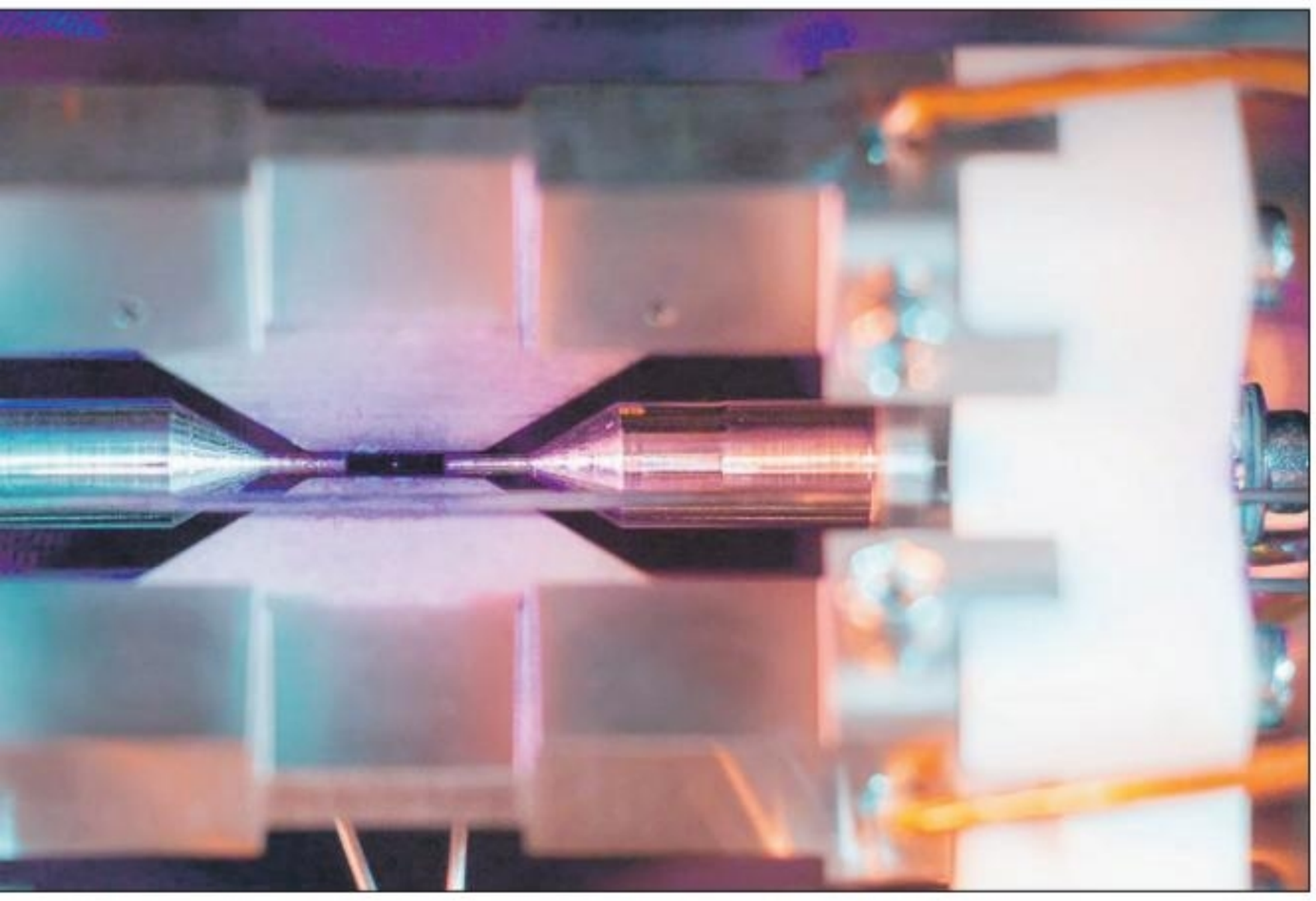


photographer university science prize

as a 'Single Atom In An Ion Tap'.

The image, shot using a normal digital camera on a long exposure, is a result of an experiment that Mr Nadlinger and his team are working on – the development of quantum computing using laser-manipulated trapped ions.

Mr Nadlinger said: "The idea of being able to see a single atom with the naked eye had struck me as a wonderfully direct and visceral bridge between the miniscule quantum world and our macroscopic reality.

"When I set off to the lab with camera and tripods one quiet Sunday afternoon, I was rewarded with this particular picture of a small, pale blue dot."

Oxford in the frame for share of £6m cycle cash

By Owen Hughes

OXFORD has been chosen as one of eight cities in the running to receive cash to make it a safer place for cyclists.

The government has launched a £6.5million fund to pay for schemes including segregated cycle paths and improved junctions.

The funding is part of the Department for Transport (DfT) cycling review announced in September 2017.

The seven other cities invited to bid for a share of the fund are Cambridge, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Norwich, Manchester and Newcastle.

Robin Tucker, chair of the Oxfordshire Cycling Network, said although the investment is "good news for Oxford", the announcement should be met with a certain degree of caution.

He said: "Oxford is one of the smaller of those cities, so it will probably get a bit less than one eighth of the money, maybe about half a million pounds I suppose, so we have to be reasonably cautious about what we expect for that.

"I would expect the council to pick a junction and maybe one part of a priority route within the Oxford Transport Plan for improvements.

"Having cycle lanes is one thing, but you've really got to make sure the cycling provision is continuous and safe across the junctions.

Councillors and campaigners at the launch of the Cycling City signs last year as part of the vision to be a city that welcomes cyclists
Picture: *Oxford City Council*

"Getting the right details in the design at the junctions, traffic lights and roundabouts is really important."

A further £500,000 will be set aside by the government to support Cycling UK's big bike revival initiative to encourage more people to cycle safely.

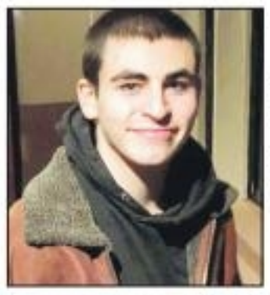
Cycling minister Jesse Norman said: "Everyone should be able to take advantage of the huge health and environmental benefits of cycling.

"While Britain has some of the safest roads in the world, we want to encourage more people to take up cycling.

"This funding, as part of our overall cycling and walking strategy, will help local councils to make their roads safer for everyone."

Robin added that cycling groups have "built up a much better relationship" with councils in recent years and would help to work out the types of improvements that could benefit cyclists the most and make cycling safer for everyone.

Student took drugs before Westgate fall



AN Oxford University student fell to his death from the Westgate Centre after taking drugs.

Max Mian, 19, *pictured*, was found dead on the morning of October 2, a day after the classics student had arrived in Oxford for his second year of studies.

His body was discovered a short distance from the John Lewis store by construction workers.

Last week at Oxford Coroners' Court, Oxfordshire coroner Darren Salter delivered a verdict of accidental death.

The inquest heard how, on the evening of October 1, Max and friends went out to The Swan and Castle pub in Castle Street, where he took ketamine.

After the pub, Mr Mian returned to his shared accommodation at Frewin Annex in St Michael's Street where he played on the PlayStation going to bed in the early hours of October 2.

Mr Mian was spotted on CCTV leaving the flat at 3.25am.

It is believed he climbed the John Lewis building from the outside.

His body was discovered by workers shortly before 7am.

The inquest heard how Mr Mian had scaled buildings in the past and had also expressed a desire to enter the construction site before.

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Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Full of beans at amount raised

By George Welch

TWO daring teachers from a Wheatley school took advantage of the re-sauces available to them to raise money for terminally ill children, young adults and their families.

Pupils and fellow members of staff at Chilworth House Upper School enjoyed pouring beans over teaching assistant Michael Wood and deputy head and science teacher Gareth Smith while they laid in a bath to raise money for Helen & Douglas House, our charity of the year.

The Thame Road school raised £257 with a jam-packed day of fundraising at the end of last term.

Mr Smith and Mr Wood willingly volunteered to sit in a bath tub and have baked beans poured over them. Students and staff members paid 20p a can to toss the beans over them.

Michael Wood and left, Gareth Smith took part in the beans in the bath challenge

Andrew Hemming, from the school, said the money was raised for Helen & Douglas House because the east Oxford charity "is such an incredible" organisation.

He added: "Our school loved fundraising for a great charity and hope the money gets used to make a little one's life more enjoyable.

"[It was] such an amazing achievement and a huge thanks to all the staff and students who took part and raised this much money for this great charity."

Staff and students bought and gobbled up cakes, flapjacks and brownies baked by the food technology department as part of the fundraising activities. A game to guess the amount of sweets in the jar, a raffle and a Santa fun run also added to the entertainment.

Lucy Walker, from Helen & Douglas House, said: "We are delighted that Chilworth House Upper School has raised this money for us. They organise some great fun fundraising events. This money will help local terminally ill children live life to the full and allow us to give their families the help and support they need."

■ Could your school organise a fundraising event to help local terminally ill children? If so, contact fundraising@helenanddouglas.org.uk

Visit tinyurl.com/ycgq3o9t to donate to Helen & Douglas House.

InBrief

Mental health help

PEOPLE with first-hand experience of mental health problems are invited to take part in a training programme and use their experiences to help others in their recovery.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust is running a new peer support training programme – anyone who completes the programme can then apply for paid peer support worker roles, which will be advertised at Oxford Health in July.

Applications for the programme are due on March 1.

For more details, visit https://tinyurl.com/ydddjk3m

Sibling advice

A CHILD and adolescent psychotherapist has published a children's picture book originally written to help his three-year-old son adjust to the arrival of his baby brother.

Dr Gerry Byrne, who works at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, has released All at Sea: There's a New Baby in the Family.

Visit tinyurl.com/ybt9d9oo

New road crossing

A NEW puffin crossing will be built on Banbury Road, just north of the junction with Hernes Road in Oxford.

Right turns from Hernes Road into Banbury Road will be prohibited but it is not yet known when the crossing will be built.

Rewarded for healthy eating efforts

RESTAURANTS and cafes in north Oxfordshire were recognised for going above and beyond in providing nutritious and healthy food for their customers.

Eat Out Eat Well organised by Cherwell District Council has presented its first set of winners with gold, silver and bronze awards at Bloxham Mill.

Prodrive and Reg's Café from Banbury, Copper Kitchen and Savoir Fare from Bicester, The Stables from Bodicote, and Mulberry Café in Cropredy all scooped gold in the first round of awards.

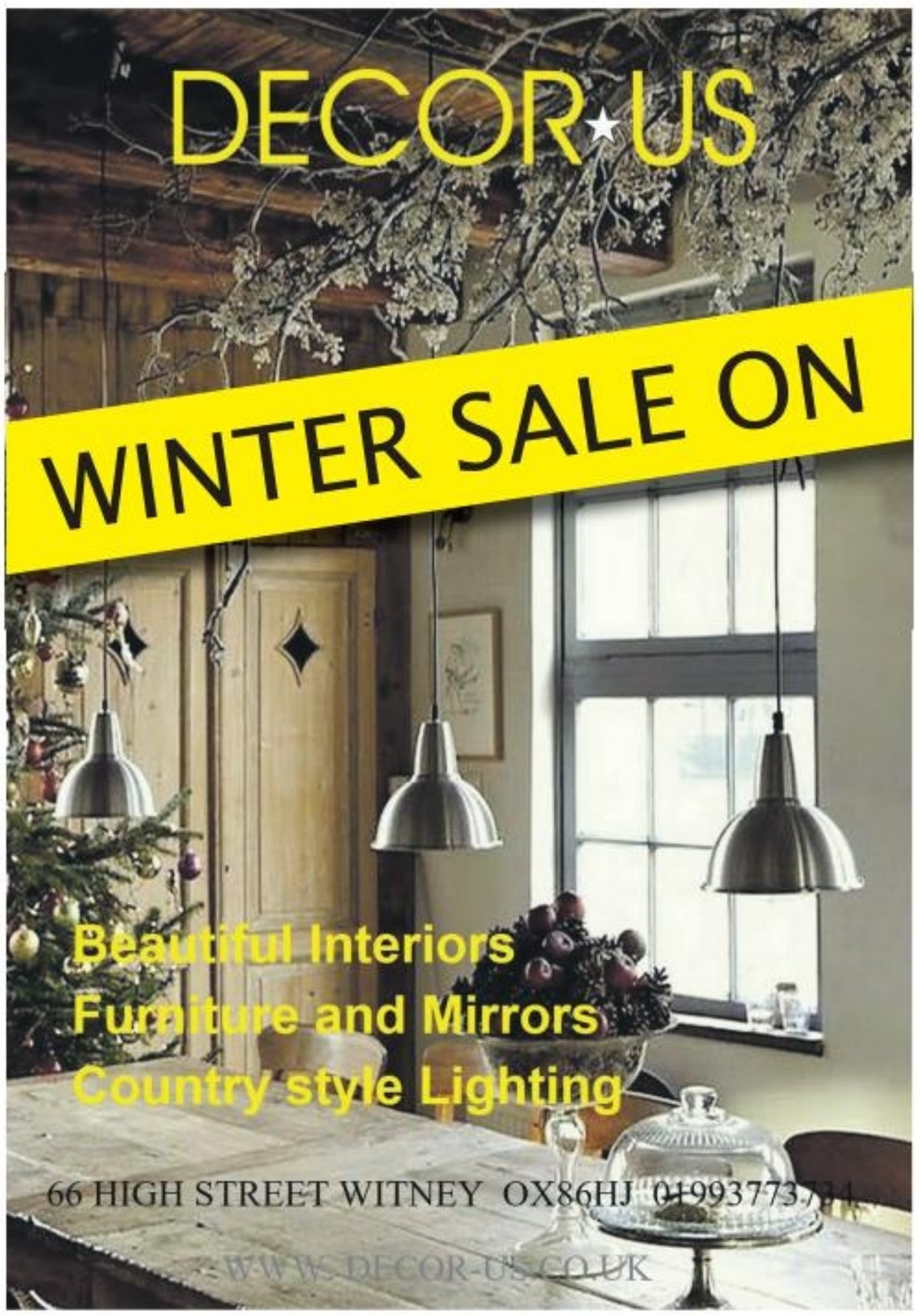
Blue Apple Catering in Banbury received a silver award and The Black Bull in Launton received bronze.

Cllr Kieron Mallon, Cherwell's lead member for public protection, said: "We want to recognise the businesses that are doing their best to encourage a nutritious diet, both in the quality of their cooking, and how they promote it to their customers."

Food caterers in the district can apply for an Eat Out Eat Well assessment to be considered for an award – the caterers are assessed on the food on offer, cooking methods and how healthy options are marketed to customers.

The winners have their names recorded in a national database which people can check before choosing where to go for a meal or takeaway.

Councillor Jolanta Lis presents gold awards to Reg and Alison Howe of Reg's Cafe and below, with Lorraine Fare of Savoir Fare



Focus on Footsteps Foundation

Life-changing physio to aid children's lives

Children's disability charity Footsteps Foundation was one of the many charities to be nominated for our charity of the year. Here, foundation manager Maggie Davies reveals all about the Dorchester-based charity and its upcoming projects

Mission

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for children affected by neurological disorders, enabling them to receive the intensive physiotherapy they need.

Since our beginnings in 2008 we have spent £1.4million on 25,000 hours of specialist, life-changing physiotherapy. We have helped 237 individual children, intensively over many years.

In our 10th year of operation, Footsteps Foundation is launching three new projects: The Equipment Fund, to help buy new equipment for our gyms; the Home-from-Home Fund, to help families who travel from further afield to pay for accommodation and The Music Therapy Project.

Therapy

Footsteps therapy is innovative and unique to the UK. It combines traditional methods of therapy with a specialist piece of equipment that originates from Poland.

The 'Spider' is a simple metal frame, with elastics and harnesses that supports the child in a 'Spider's web' giving freedom of movement and allowing them to maintain positions they would not normally be able to achieve.

The Spider is central to Footsteps therapy and our therapists carry out a full range of exercises which improves muscle tone, coordination and core strength.

Therapists measure our results and children have achieved many advances in general mobility, standing, walking and fine and gross motor skills through Footsteps therapy, often significantly exceeding medical expectations

The need

The majority of children we support have cerebral palsy or are affected by other neurological disorders. Movements we take for granted, such as walking, standing, sitting and crawling can be exceptionally difficult.

Due to restraints on the NHS, disabled children typically only receive one or two hours of physiotherapy each month.

An important factor with Footsteps therapy is the intensity: 1-3 hours per day for three weeks, multiple times throughout the year.

Many of the children who need intensive physiotherapy the most come from families who are least able to afford it.

We believe there is a fundamental need to support these families and to help disabled children develop the skills necessary to reach their own unique personal potential.

Families thanks:

"Cerys had never taken an independent step before attending a session at footsteps, she was very weak in her legs and core, had poor balance and little confidence. In Cerys's first three week session at Footsteps she took her first independent steps, something we had been told she would never manage!"

"Everyone in Abbie's life is amazed at the progress this time. There is always a marked improvement but the difference this has made to her life this time has been phenomenal. It is the difference between experiencing the world lying flat on her back and engaging with it sat up, able to see all around her and get where she wants to go"

Children such as Mattas on the treadmill, top left, and below, Sienna receiving treatment help from Gosia and Gia are just two of those who have been helped by Footstseps Foundation over the last 10 years – the charity is now launching a fundraising programme for three new projects

Visit tinyurl.com/y8d5xqy2 to donate to the Footsteps Foundation. For more information contact the charity at info@footstepscentre.com or 01865 340376

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News

College in the running for awards

A COLLEGE and its apprentices are celebrating after being recognised for several prestigious awards.

Abingdon & Witney College has been nominated for awards at both a regional and national level, including the inaugural awards at this year's national FE Week annual apprenticeship conference (AAC).

The college is up for three AAC awards on March 5 – Outstanding contribution to the development of apprenticeships at a national level and Apprenticeship Provider of the Year at both regional and national level.

The college is also hoping to win the Training Provider of the Year category for the second year in a row.

Three apprentices have also been recognised for their achievements at the 2018 Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards on Thursday next week.

Principal Di Batchelor said it was fantastic to have started 2018 in the same fashion as how it finished 2017.

Lauren Livingstone, a care manager, and Trina White, a senior carer in elderly care and accommodation, are up for the Higher Apprenticeship Award.

Alanta Hissey-Powell, who is an apprentice healthcare assistant is up for the special recognition award.

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3 Awards
OXFORDSHIRE APPRENTICESHIP Awards 2018
Training Provider of the Year and 3 Apprentice Awards

Abingdon & Witney College celebrate their nominations

Never a dull day in all his 25 years

By George Welch

FROM lumbering cumbersome equipment around to using state-of-the-art technology and having wider responsibility, a lot has changed in the fire service over the last quarter of a century.

Few know that more than Grahame Mitchell, *pictured*, who this year is celebrating his 25th year in the service.

The assistant chief fire officer was recruited to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service in 1992 after completing a five-year engineering apprenticeship and deciding to follow a 'long-term' dream of becoming a firefighter – and there has not been a dull day since.

"Not everyone can say that they have saved a life or that they still want to be in the same profession for this long," Grahame, whose first posting was to White Watch at Rewley Road in Oxford, said.

Over the past 25 years, Grahame has seen a 'huge societal change' in that nearly all homes have working smoke alarms and car design and safety systems are improving.

The county council also believes that traffic accidents 'will be a thing of the past' as autonomous driving advances.

Pivotal to the service's evolution is the development of technology.

Grahame said: "When I started we used to have to use very heavy and cumbersome equipment and relied only on our senses to find our way through

smoke filled buildings.

"Now we have lightweight breathing apparatus and thermal imaging technology so we can deal with fires even more efficiently."

The modern day fire service is "a lot more than responding to emergencies" and sometimes that takes its toll, Grahame said.

He added: "We have a real skill in responding to floods and in recent years we have seen adverse weather start to impact on our county and its residents, flooding is equally as distressing as experiencing a fire

"We assist and can get people to safety but to see their homes destroyed and all that devastation, it stays with you.

"With natural disasters it's always astonishing, the impact they can have, turning people's lives upside down."

If you are interested in becoming a firefighter go to tinyurl.com/y8fmafa7

InBrief

Garage break-in

CHOLSEY residents are being asked to 'remain vigilant' after a garage was broken into in Ilges Lane.

Officers did not say whether anything was taken but did say the break-in happened between 5.30pm last Wednesday and 8.30am last Thursday.

Contact police on 101 if you have any information on the incident or notice any suspicious people and/or vehicles in the area.

Schools' concert

YOUNG musicians from across the county gathered for a special concert at the historic Sheldonian Theatre.

Around 1,700 pupils from 34 schools performed a mix of traditional and contemporary classics at the Oxfordshire County Music Service Schools' Concert.

Mayor's Proms night

ENJOY an Evening at the Proms courtesy of the Mayor and Mayoress of Bicester.

The concert in aid of the soldiers of Oxfordshire, the Royal British Legion and other local charities will be performed by the Waterloo Band and Bugles of the Rifles.

It takes place at St Edburg's Church on Saturday from 7pm to 9pm. Adult tickets cost £15, the bar opens at 6.30pm. For more information call 01869 252915 or email enquiries@bicester.gov.uk

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News

Aspiring to help disadvantaged

By Owen Hughes

THERE are no signs of the wheels coming off an Oxford-based charity that helps disadvantaged people back into work after opening its workshop doors to a cycle repair centre.

Aspire Oxfordshire announced the deal to share its workshop facilities with social enterprise Broken Spoke Bike Co-op on Wednesday.

Broken Spoke, in Pembroke Street, Oxford, helps people become more proficient in riding and bike maintenance and will begin sharing the workshop space from spring.

Broken Spoke's director, Sam, said: "Everyone's excited about the new workshop. We're being asked about it by volunteers, customers, and folk from all over Oxford and Oxfordshire.

"We can't wait to join the community on Osney Lane and we're really looking forward to sharing resources to continue to transform and empower our communities. Be ready to be amazed by the myriad different uses of an old inner tube."

The deal coincides with a recent grant from The Tambour Foundation to expand the charity's services to work with ex-military personnel in addition to the support it gives to offenders.

Aspire's Through The Gate project currently offers work experience programmes for offenders like Terry, who approached the charity on release from HMP Bullingdon.

Terry received training and housing advice from Aspire and last week was awarded a permanent contract for his job at University College, Oxford.

Caroline Winn joined Aspire in December after the project was expanded to support ex-military clients.

She said: "At Aspire we recognise that it is very challenging for military families who have transitioned from military life to civilian life to know where to go for help locally.

Broken Spoke Bike Co-op staff celebrates their partnership with Aspire Oxfordshire

"I'll be working closely with welfare staff on the military bases, military charities and other local community organisations to break down barriers and allow ex-military clients to thrive in the local community."

For more information go to www.aspireoxford.co.uk/support-us

Mini car, walking and beer attractions scoop visitor awards

OXFORDSHIRE is clearly the place to be after a trio of attractions scooped accolades for quality visitor experiences.

Cowley's MINI Plant, Oxford Official Walking Tours and Witney's Wychwood Brewery Tours were recognised last week by tourist board VisitEngland for 'outstanding experiences they provide'.

Eighty-six attractions across the country received accolades after being judged on criteria from story telling to food and drink and customer service. VisitEngland inspectors assess the tourist sites annually.

The MINI plant and Oxford Official Walking Tours were honoured in the Best Told Story category, while Wychwood Brewery Tours was acknowledged in both the Hidden Gem and Welcome categories.

Martin Walker, head of marketing and development at Experience Oxfordshire, the visitor information service that runs the walking tours, said the team behind them is "delighted" to be recognised.

He added: "It's a great achievement and reflects the professionalism and dedication of our walking tour guides who share their knowledge and passion for the city's history and heritage with thousands of visitors every year."

VisitEngland director Andrew Stokes said: "These attractions offer a warm welcome, unique story-telling, high quality food and drink and unparalleled customer service and rightly deserve these accolades."

InBrief

New restaurant

A NEW bar and restaurant is set to open in Abingdon next month, creating 25 jobs.

The new 'cosy retreat' called Pablo Lounge will launch on Bury Street on March 7 following a £435,000 investment in the site.

The family-friendly venue will serve food and drink, with a full menu just for children as well as games, books, colouring pencils and pads. There will also be a community notice board and a book swap area.

The team will also hold regular fundraising events, and have chosen to support local charity Abingdon Community Hospital League of Friends.

Quiz the police

REPRESENTATIVES from Thames Valley Police will be attending Thame Town Council's next full council meeting on Tuesday to update on policing in the town.

Councillors and members of the public will be able to ask questions.

Office rents up

OXFORD'S 'knowledge economy' is driving rental growth according to research by Bidwells property consultants which reveals office space take-up in the county was the highest for a decade.

It said the cost of prime office rents in the county hit a new high.

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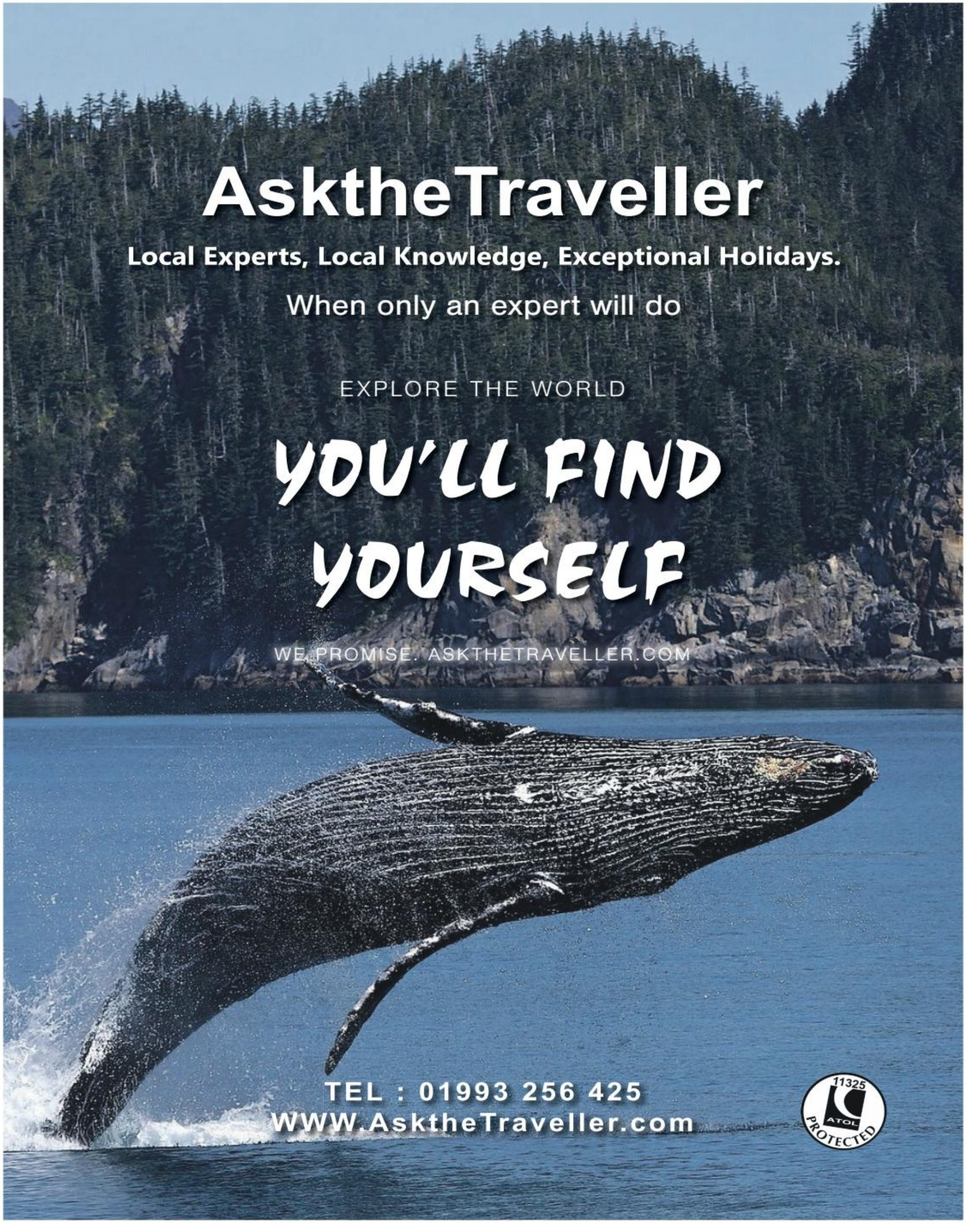
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Out & About

Noel Gallagher completes line-up at Blenheim Palace concerts

Dance festival hot foots it to city

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Out & About

Time to put on your dancin' shoes

Spring dance festival comes to city

By Samantha McGregor

OXFORD'S annual spring dance festival is gearing up to take the city by storm next month.

Organisers of The 2018 Dancin' Oxford festival boast this year is "probably the best yet", with more professional companies, taster sessions and "extraordinary" aerial performances on the new Westgate Shopping Centre façade.

Now in its 12th year, the event is funded by Oxford City Council and Arts Council England and runs across the county from March 2 to 11.

Claire Thompson, Oxford City Council's dance officer said: "Each festival has its strengths and this spring one is no different.

"I am delighted that we have now engaged with venues all over the county with a wide variety of performances that should suit all tastes.

"For our annual free event in Oxford city centre we are upending the dance floor for a series of aerial performances danced to a driving musical score. What a treat."

Among the performers is Gravity & Levity, an aerial dance company, who will upend the dance floor to view the city from a whole new perspective when dancers scale the Westgate Shopping Centre façade to dance up, down and across, to a lively musical score on March 10.

The annual Moving with the Times comprises of three specially commissioned pieces by Dancin' Oxford and Pegasus and features Oxford performers Joelle Pappas, Lunas Dance and Orley & Sermet. The themes range from an exploration of attitudes and behaviours to motherhood.

The other two big shows this year are Gecko's The Wedding, at the Oxford Playhouse from March 1 to 3, and Tango Moderno starring Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace, which is staged at the New Theatre from March 5 to 8.

The North Wall plays host to four dance performances including the return of the popular children's' dance company Peut-Etre Theatre with a new show Tidy Up, on March 10.

Outside the city The Mill in Banbury will host J&D Acrobats' Knot on March 9 and Cornerstone Didcot showcases New Art Club's Cupid's Revenge on March 10.

For more information or to book go to dancinoxford.co.uk

Front image: *Dancer Lindsey Butcher courtesy of Scarabeus © Mark Morreau*

Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace in Tango Moderne Picture: *Manuel Harlan*

A dancer from Company Chameleon

On stage

Art at Town Hall

Oxford International Art Fair brings together contemporary art from leading artists from the UK and overseas, under the majestic roof of Oxford Town Hall.

Among the highlights will be work by Jenny Bowden, an Oxfordshire based watercolour abstract artist.

It takes place from tomorrow until Sunday. For more information view oxfordinternationalartfair.com

Ezra's Truck debut

Friendly Fires and George Ezra are among the acts lined up for Oxfordshire's Truck Festival.

The Hill Farm festival takes place from July 20 to 22, and includes performances from hip-hop legends De La Soul and indie favourites Circa Waves. Gaz Coombes is back for the first time since 2013, and Oxford Symphony Orchestra, who became a viral sensation after their 2017 set, also return.

Tickets available at truckfestival.com

Explorer on tour

Tickets have gone on sale for explorer Benedict Allen, who will stop off at Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre in October as part of a UK tour reavealing the unvarnished truth of his most recent adventure – a solo expedition to Papua New Guinea.

For more information view benedictallen.com/tour2018

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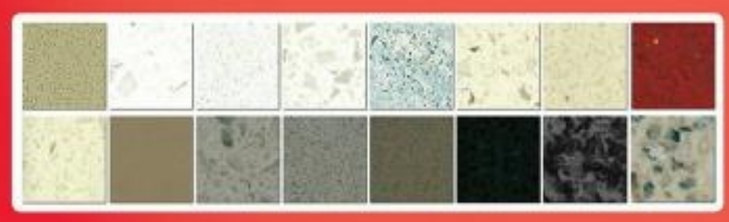

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Noel flies in with his birds

THE final headline act for Oxfordshire music festival Nocturne has been announced as Noel Gallagher.

Multi-million-selling Oasis star Gallagher will perform on Friday, June 15, at the Blenheim Palace concert series.

It comes after a string of international stars have already been announced including Gary Barlow, who is due to headline the event's closing show, Elvis Costello, Nile Rodgers & Chic, The Waterboys and Nick Lowe.

Nocturne returns to Blenheim's 10,000-capacity Great Court for a four-day musical extravaganza from June 14 to 17.

As guitarist and principal songwriter of legendary rock band Oasis, Noel had eight UK number-one singles, eight UK number-one albums and won six Brit Awards.

His solo performances feature a mix of solo material alongside a selection of Oasis hits.

Noel will perform and his High Flying Birds touring band, which consists of former Oasis guitarist Gem Archer, former Oasis session pianist Mike Rowe, former Oasis drummer Chris Sharrock and The Zutons bassist Russell Pritchard.

Tickets for this concert start at £45 and are on sale now, to book view nocturnelive.com

Carrying a third pint glass – the true mark of a genius

STAND-up veteran Simon Evans, known for his thought-provoking performances, is bringing his wit and wisdom to Chipping Norton Theatre.

He will appear on Saturday, March 3, as part of his Genius tour, coming from his success at the Edinburgh Festival.

This performance will see him explore what is genius?

Is it a high IQ? A ruthless disregard for convention? Any ploy used successfully to carry a third pint glass without spilling it? Or something else?

Well whatever it is, it seems to be in desperately short supply in public life at present, according to Simon.

Evans is a familiar face with appearances on Live at the Apollo, Michael McIntyre's Roadshow and the Edinburgh Gala amongst others.

Demonstrating his genius in more conventional form he appeared on University Challenge: The Professionals in 2007, in a team narrowly beaten by eventual series winners the Ministry of Justice. He was also a contestant on Celebrity Mastermind, where his specialist subject was Ernest Shackleton.

Simon is a regular on Radio 4, with four series of his own show Simon Evans Goes to Market already broadcast, the fifth currently transmitting and more in the pipeline.

He also writes for various other TV shows and comedians, and recently The Daily Telegraph, giving his views on Brexit as a subject for comedy.

For more information or tickets view chippingnortontheatre.com

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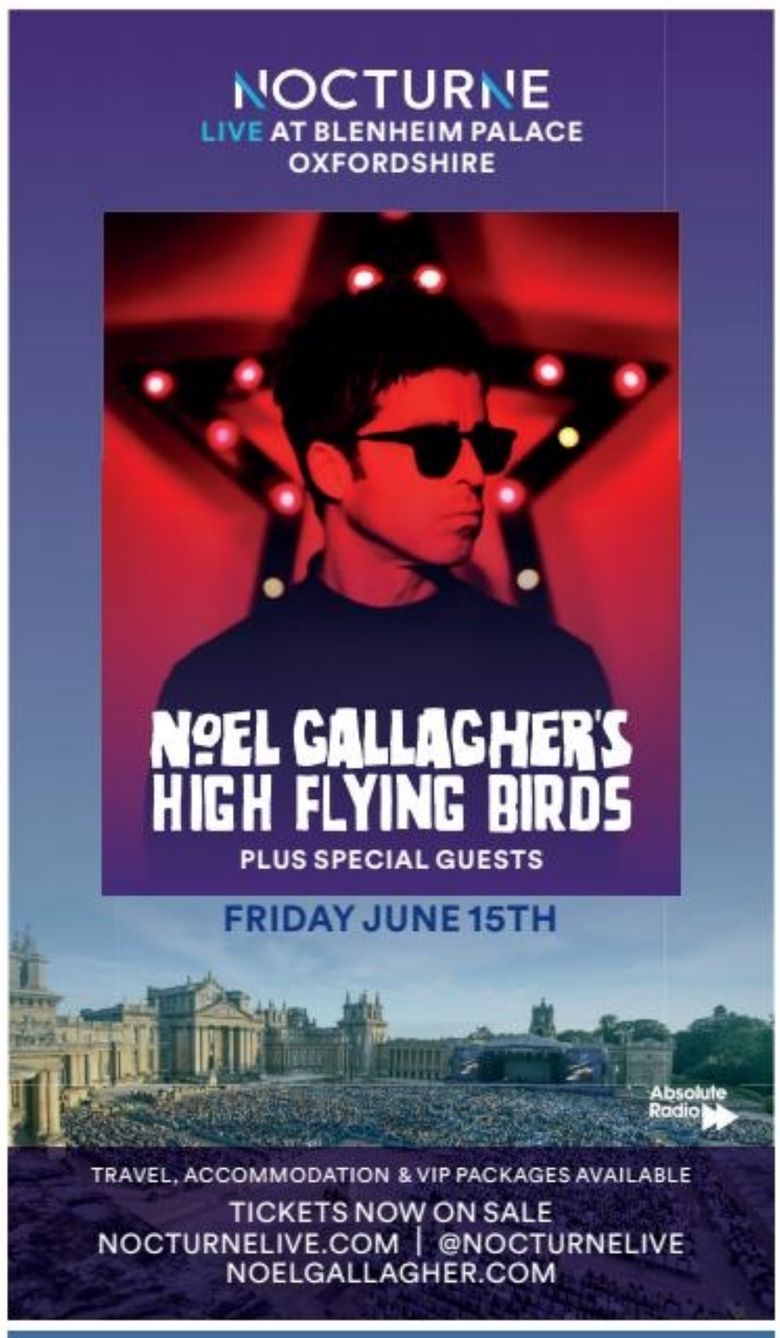

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Out & About

Reginald takes on some people

COMEDIAN Reginald D Hunter, who is known for his honest and often contrvoversial approach, is coming to the Oxford Playhouse.

He brings his latest show 'Some people Vs Reginald D Hunter' to Oxford on March 6 as part of a nationwide tour.

Originally from America, Reginald now lives and performs in the UK.

He came to England to study acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, but after completing a comedy set as a dare he found his vocation.

Having been in the UK for nearly two decades he has become one of comedy's best-known performers for his distinctive take on subjects including race and sexuality.

His work is described as "brutally honest" and is often considered to be controversial, unafraid to face challenging issues head on, even when the focus is on his own principles or beliefs.

Reginald is a well-known face on primetime television shows such as 8 Out Of 10 Cats, Never Mind The Buzzcocks and QI and is a frequent guest on Have I Got News For You.

He also made the popular three-part BBC2 series Reginald D Hunter's Songs Of The South.

The support act for the evening Pete Johansson, whose hit solo Edinburgh show Naked Pictures of My Life garnered rave reviews and bagged him a nomination for Best Newcomer at the Edinburgh Comedy Awards.

Pete has appeared on many shows including The Late Late Show, Russell Howard's Good News on BBC3, Comedy Central's Live at the Comedy Store and Best of the Fest on Channel 4, as well as having his own Netflix special.

Tickets for Reginald D Hunter at Oxford Playhouse are £25 and are available from the box office on 01865 305305 or go to oxfordplayhouse.com

Recipe

Earl Grey & Gin Cured Salmon

Gin is all the rage and not just as a drink so why not try it with salmon and Earl Grey for a sumptuously smokey flavour as in this recipe from Roger Williams, head chef of The Maytime Inn at Asthall near Burford

Ingredients:

For the cured salmon

3 teaspoons loose leaf Earl Grey, divided
1/2 cup caster sugar
1/2 cup coarse sea salt
Black pepper, for sprinkling
1 side salmon
1 fluid ounce gin
Juice from 1/2 orange

For the citrus cream

5 ounces crème fraiche
Juice from 1/2 orange
1 teaspoon wholegrain mustard
A few sprigs of dill, finely chopped
Sea salt, to taste
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1 loaf of rye bread

Method:

Boil the kettle and pour the water over half the loose leaf tea – just enough to moisten the leaves.

Mix the sugar, salt, pepper and remaining tea together in a bowl and sprinkle a thin layer into the bottom of the baking dish.

Cut the salmon into 2 large pieces. If you don't have a baking dish big enough, you can cut the salmon into manageable fillets. Lay one side of salmon in the dish, skin side down and sprinkle the cure all over. Then lay the other side, skin side up, on top of the salmon and sprinkle the remaining cure all over.

Pour the orange juice, gin and tea over the salmon.

Add a layer of plastic wrap over the dish and place the chopping board or dish on top of the fish. Add the cans and refrigerate. Every day, turn the salmon fillets over and baste with any liquid in the tray.

The salmon will be ready after 48 hours, although could be left up to 72 hours for a slightly stronger cure.

Make the cream 1 hour or so before serving. In a mixing bowl, add the crème fraiche, orange juice, mustard, and dill. Mix until flavors are combined and season to taste.

When ready to serve, remove the salmon from the cure, rinse gently under cold water, scrape off any tea leaves and pat dry. Slice salmon as thin as possible and serve.

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FENCING FEATURE ADVERTISEMENT

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Get ready for Winter

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

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Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply want's to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

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Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientfically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be e_ ciently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171.

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COLOUR FENCE

Out&About Competition

WIN tickets to the Photography Show

Closing date: Thursday, March 1, 2018

The Photography Show, the event for everyone passionate about photography and moving image, returns to the NEC Birmingham from 17-20 March 2018 featuring the latest kit from big brands and a jam-packed speaker line-up.

Get hands-on with new products from Canon, Epson, Fujifilm, Hasselblad, Manfrotto, Nikon, Olympus, Panasonic, Sigma and Sony to name a few, plus tripods, albums and accessories you didn't even know existed from over 220 exhibitors.

The Great Outdoors, a new stage for 2018, will feature live demos and expert advice on image capture outside, including dramatic landscapes, getting close to nature and special occasions whatever the weather. The enhanced Mobile & Social Stage will offer the opportunity to explore mobile imaging technologies and how social media can make (or break) a photographer, and the dedicated Video Stage will showcase cutting-edge products alongside technical and creative help on how to get the best out of moving image production skills.

Plus, catch exciting live action tutorials on the Live Stage, find out about intriguing photography projects and techniques in Behind the Lens, discover how drones can enhance your projects in the Drone Zone and hear thrilling insights into the journeys of world-renowned photographers at the Super Stage and more!

For more information, please visit: www.photographyshow.com/pr_1

Get your ticket

To guarantee that you'll be at the show in March, you can buy tickets to the show by visiting www.photography-show.com/pr_1. Tickets to Super Stage sessions, masterclasses and for the VIP package are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Win tickets!

The Basingstoke Observer has teamed up with The Photography Show to offer 5 lucky readers and their 'plus one' the chance to attend 2018's most exciting photography event, absolutely free!*

To be in with a chance of winning, just answer the following simple question:

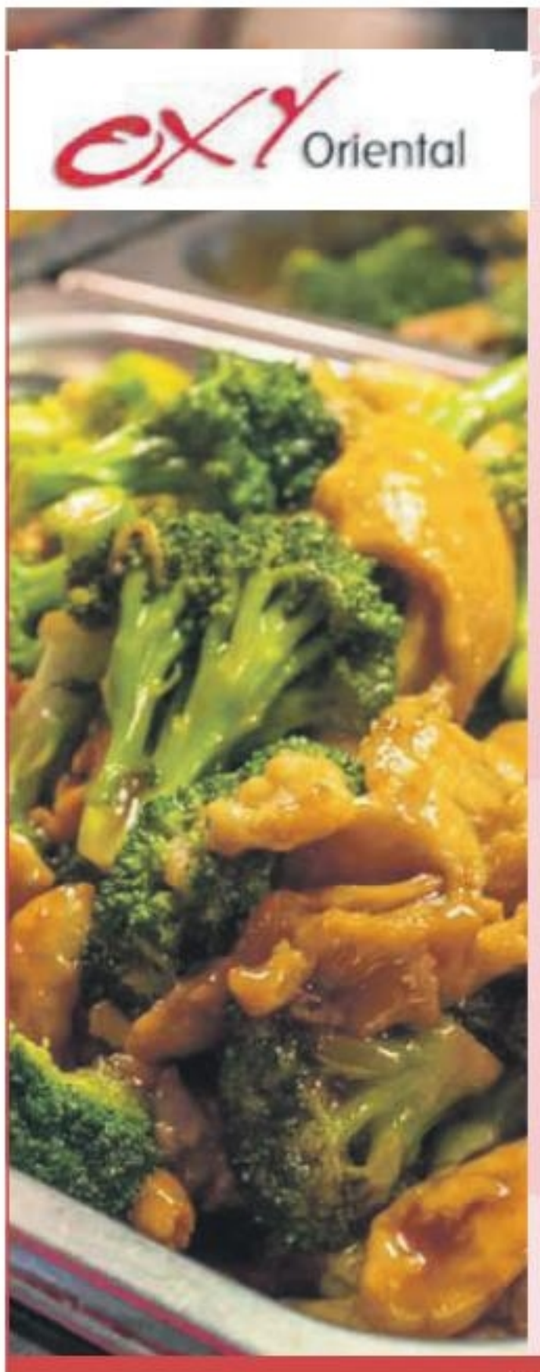
Q: Where will you be able to find out more about how drones can be used?

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to
www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk
For full terms & conditions go to www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk/about-us

The Photography Show 17-20 MARCH 2018 THE NEC, BIRMINGHAM

Tickets are limited to one pair per winner and are valid for one day only. So what are you waiting for? Send your entry today!

*Free tickets are for entry to the show plus a selection of theatre and stage programmes. Additional tickets must be purchased for the Masterclasses, Super Stage sessions and VIP upgrades.



OXY Oriental

Treat your Mum this Mothers Day on Sunday 11th March at Oxy Oriental

STARTERS

Start your lunch meal at Oxy Oriental with one of our fantastic starters. Choose from over 50 amazing starters from our buffet.

Salads
Prawn Crackers
Aromatic Lamb with Trimmings
Sesame Prawn Toast
Deep fried Won Ton
Soups
Spare Ribs in Barbecue Sauce
Onion Rings
Vegetable Spring Rolls
Lemon Chicken
Deep Fried Chicken Wing
Vegetable Curry Samosa
Chips

MAIN COURSES

Continue your lunchtime voyage to Asia and get your taste buds tingling with some of our round the world dishes. Guaranteed to satisfy your hunger.

Pork Chops with Sweet Chilli Sauce
Sweet and Sour Chicken
Beef with Black Bean Sauce
Malaysian Chicken Curry
Vegetable Foo Yung
Stir Fried Egg Plants & Green Beans
Mushroom with Oyster Sauce
Mix Vegetable & Bean Curd with Yellow Bean Sauce
Deep Fried Aubergines
Fried Rice
Boil Rice
Chips
Noodles in Special Soy Sauce
Singapore Vermicelli

DESSERTS

Top off your lunch with something sweet. Don't worry, it's all for one affordable price!

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puzzle drome

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CROSS CODE

23	26	23	24	6	9	23	12	■	12	23	7	19
14	■	■	5	■	2	■	13	■	6	■	■	11
21	■	8	2	24	4	18	2	7	20	12	■	7
24	13	6	15	■	23	■	22	■	12	13	11	18
■	■	5	■	12	22	2	4	23	■	2	■	2
22	3	5	11	22	■	16	■	10	21	24	2	7
21	■	20	■	2	15	6	12	23	■	4	■	20
25	7	11	6	14	■	7	■	22	6	5	5	12
13	■	16	■	12	14	23	5	9	■	21	■	■
9	13	23	22	■	2	■	11	■	4	22	21	9
1	■	7	23	17	6	21	7	21	22	25	■	18
2	■	■	24	■	12	■	7	■	11	■	■	21
7	21	22	4	■	23	25	3	14	9	21	2	22

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7 R	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21 I	22 N	23	24	25	26

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

NOW LOSS IS SO MINOR

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.

Quiz Challenge

1. What is the name of the archipelago 50 miles west of the Hebrides, of which Hirta is the largest island?
2. Sandown Park horse racing course is in which town in Surrey ?
3. "Tonight I'm gonna have myself a real good time" is the opening line of which Queen song?
4. According to the proverb, what is the better part of valour?
5. Whose 1963 report on British Railways led to the cutting of the railway network by over a quarter?
6. At 1,083ft, Cleeve Hill is the highest point in which English county?
7. John and Charles Wesley are associated with the founding of which Christian movement?
8. Together with her siblings Dappy and Fazer, former X-Factor judge Tulisa Contostavlos made up which British hip hop group?
9. A breed of which animal is named after the New Forest?
10. A skid row florist's assistant finds fame nurturing a man-eating plant in which musical?

NONAGRAM

R	U	G
T	Y	E
S	O	N

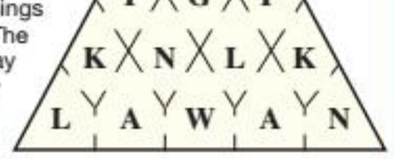
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
25 Good; 30 Very Good; 35 Excellent.

Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.

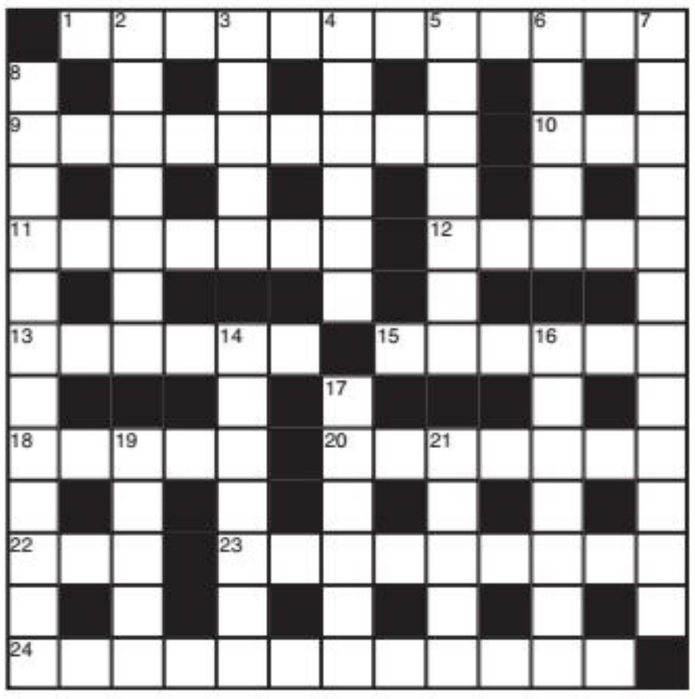


FIVE ALIVE

RK	HA	AV	KE	DI
IE	■	IS	■	ED
AN	OF	TI	ES	RE
RG	■	DA	■	AB
SM	IT	LE	PK	YS

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Youngster mad on puzzles? What can be done with him? (7,5)
9. Arrive, having washed, and admit everything (4,5)
10. Their expressions include anger (3)
11. It might be the first service book (7)
12. Does some pressing (5)
13. One who badly wants more time? (6)
15. May possibly include work by one suffering from short-sightedness (6)
18. Deck or dock (5)
20. One is ages repairing the spear (7)
22. Twitch the odd letters (3)
23. In French get on after trip with the attendants (9)
24. Make a fresh deal (12)

DOWN

2. Hurried to take first man up inside fast (7)
3. Essayist or artist – comparatively rash? (5)
4. Equally it could have been Evelyn (6)
5. Runs for 100 years (7)
6. Sweet coating that is a danger to aeroplanes (5)
7. One who mainly works well below the surface (4-3,5)
8. Medical man who tampers with a place of learning? (6,6)
14. Not stopping to put into words (7)
16. Attendant has a book on the spectacle (7)
17. First Michaelmas daisy for teacher (6)
19. Drinks may be, or shoes (5)
21. Firework will not go off when damp (5)

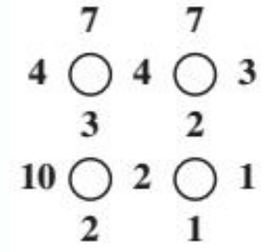
SUDOKU

Easy Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box. **Hard**

1		9	2	7				
5			4				7	9
	3	2			8		4	
4	9	8		3				
6	5			4		8		3
3				8	6	5		
		4			9		6	
	6	5			4	3	1	

			4		5			6
9			1		3	2		
	5	3				8		
				1		7		
			5	7		4		
		4						3
	7							8
		9	2	4				
3			6		9			

EQUALISER



Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same.

Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

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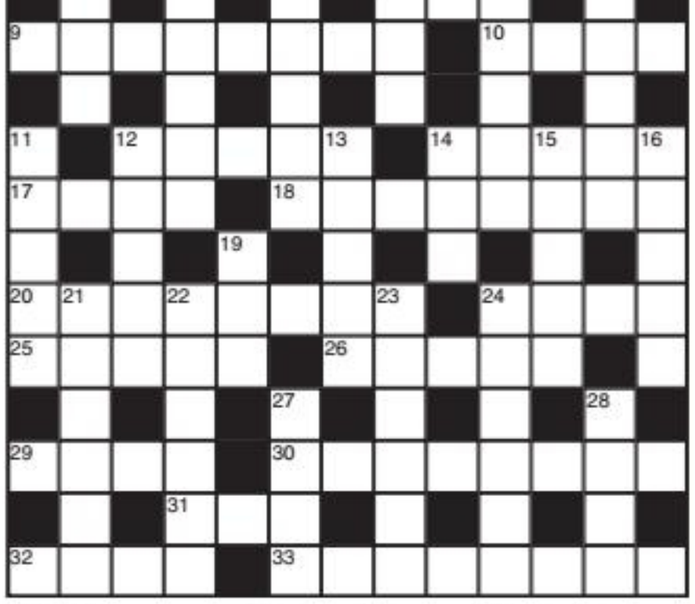
QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1. Stale joke (8)
6. Japanese wrestling (4)
8. Nocturnal bird (3)
9. Spoiled (8)
10. German man's name (4)
12. Drive back (5)
14. Merry frolic (5)
17. Nourishment (4)
18. Answering (8)
20. Gave out (8)
24. In this place (4)
25. Regenerate (5)
26. Intense light beam (5)
29. Join together (4)
30. Shared out (8)
31. Hawaiian garland (3)
32. Rubber tube (4)
33. Earmarked (8)

DOWN

2. Body of a ship (4)
3. Exhaled loudly (6)
4. Lower (6)
5. Fuss (2-2)
6. Slipshod (6)
7. Type of glove (6)
11. Later (5)
12. Manor (anag.) (5)
13. Even (5)
14. Cunning (3)
15. Jockey (5)
16. White heron (5)
19. Facial bone (3)
21. Ungenerously (6)
22. Settle comfortably (6)
23. Texan city (6)
24. Trojan hero (6)
27. Couple (4)
28. Bazaar (4)

SOLUTIONS

QUIZ CHALLENGE: 1 St Kilda; 2 Esher; 3 Don't Stop Me Now; 4 Discretion; 5 Dr Beeching; 6 Gloucestershire; 7 The Methodist Church; 8 N-Dubz; 9 Pony; 10 Little Shop of Horrors.

CROSS CODE

1 J	2 A	3 Y	4 K	5 L	6 U	7 R	8 B	9 T	10 V	11 O	12 S	13 H
14 P	15 M	16 Z	17 Q	18 W	19 F	20 D	21 I	22 N	23 E	24 C	25 G	26 X

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:

Across – 1 Problem child; 9 Come clean; 10 Ire; 11 Ordinal; 12 Urges; 13 Longer; 15 Myopia; 18 Ohop; 20 Assegai; 22 Tic; 23 Entourage; 24 Redistribute. **Down** – 2 Ramadan; 3 Bacon; 4 Evenly; 5 Century; 6 Icing; 7 Deep-sea diver; 8 School doctor; 14 Express; 16 Pageant; 17 Master; 19 Laced; 21 Squib.

QUICK CROSSWORD:

Across – 1 Chestnut; 6 Sumo; 8 Owl; 9 Blighted; 10 Otto; 12 Repel; 14 Spree; 17 Food; 18 Replying; 20 Emanated; 24 Here; 25 Renew; 26 Laser; 29 Knit; 30 Allotted; 31 Lei; 32 Tyre; 33 Reserved. **Down** – 2 Hull; 3 Sighed; 4 Nether; 5 To-do; 6 Sloppy; 7 Mitten; 11 After; 12 Roman; 13 Level; 14 Sly; 15 Rider; 16 Egret; 19 Jaw; 21 Meanly; 22 Nestle; 23 Dallas; 24 Hector; 27 Pair; 28 Fete.

EASY SUDOKU

1	4	9	2	7	3	6	8	5
5	8	3	4	6	1	2	7	9
2	7	6	8	9	5	4	3	1
7	3	2	5	1	8	9	4	6
4	9	8	6	3	2	1	5	7
6	5	1	9	4	7	8	2	3
8	1	4	3	5	9	7	6	2
3	2	7	1	8	6	5	9	4
9	6	5	7	2	4	3	1	8

HARD SUDOKU

1	2	7	4	8	5	3	9	6
9	4	8	1	6	3	2	7	5
6	5	3	9	2	7	8	1	4
8	3	6	5	1	2	7	4	9
2	9	5	7	3	4	6	8	1
7	1	4	8	9	6	5	2	3
4	7	2	3	5	1	9	6	8
5	6	9	2	4	8	1	3	7
3	8	1	6	7	9	4	5	2

MAGIC SQUARE: miss; iron; solo; snow.

WORD PYRAMID: Walking the plank.

EQUALISER: Clockwise from top left – add; subtract; multiply; divide. Total: 5.

FIVE ALIVE:

(1) Across – Raved; After; Milky.
Down – Hearm; Vital; Derby.
(2) Across – Khaki; Noise; Steps.
Down – Kings; Aside; Ideas.

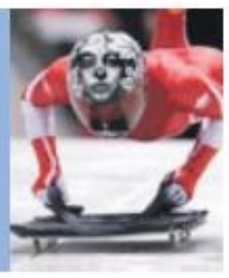
NONAGRAM:

entry; eyot; gentry; gorsy; gory; gouty; grey; groyne; gurney; gusty; gutsy; guyot; gyre; gyro; gyron; gyrus; nosy; ogy; oyes; oyster; rosy; runty; rusty; ryot; sentry; snouty; stogy; stony; storey; story; stoury; stye; suety; surety; syne; tony; tourney; trey; troy; tyre; tyro; yogurt; yore; young; younger; youngest; YOUNGSTER; your; youse; yurt.

Saturday February 24th

TOP TV

BBC 1



10.00am Winter Olympics

BBC 2

8.30pm Dad's Army

ITV

5.00pm The Chase

Channel 4

1.00pm The Simpsons

Channel 5

12.00pm Police Interceptors

MORNING

10.00am Winter Olympics

10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live
11.30am The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food

8.30am Be Cool, Scooby-Doo
9.05am Wishfart
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Saturday Morning with James Martin
11.25am Dancing on Ice

7.10am King of Queens
8.00am Everybody Loves Raymond
9.00am Frasier
10.30am The Big Bang Theory

9.35am Digby Dragon
9.50am Peppa Pig
10.00am Peppa Pig
10.05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.35am Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud
11.00am Police Interceptors

AFTERNOON

12.00pm Football Focus
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm Winter Olympics
4.00pm Six Nations Rugby Union

12.00pm Winter Olympics
1.15pm Escape to the Country
2.00pm Italy's Invisible Cities
3.00pm Nigel Slater's Middle East: Iran
4.00pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
4.30pm Final Score
5.30pm Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good

1.20pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.30pm Six Nations Live
4.30pm ITV Evening News
4.50pm ITV News London
5.00pm The Chase

12.00pm The Simpsons
12.30pm The Simpsons
1.00pm The Simpsons
1.25pm Come Dine with Me
2.25pm Coast v Country
3.25pm A Place in the Sun
4.30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
5.35pm The Supervet

12.00pm Police Interceptors
1.00pm Police Interceptors
2.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
5.00pm Rich House, Poor House

EVENING

7.00pm BBC News
7.10pm Regional News and Weather
7.15pm All Together Now
8.20pm Casualty
9.10pm Troy: Fall of a City
10.10pm BBC News
10.30pm Match of the Day
11.55pm Winter Olympics
3.30am Winter Olympics
6.00am Breakfast

6.00pm Hugh's Wild West
7.00pm Winter Olympics
8.00pm David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities
8.30pm Dad's Army
9.00pm Judi Dench: All the World's Her Stage
10.00pm Philomena
11.30pm Strawberry Fields
12.55am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.00am BBC News
6.00am Winter Olympics

6.00pm Take Me Out
7.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
8.30pm The Voice UK
9.50pm Through the Keyhole
10.45pm ITV News
11.05pm Lethal Weapon 4
1.30am Jackpot247
3.00am Babushka
3.50am ITV Nightscreen
6.00am Sooty
6.10am The Aquabats! Super Show!
6.35am Dino Dana
6.50am Super 4

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages
8.00pm Britain at Low Tide
9.00pm The Take
10.50pm Dredd
12.35am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
1.25am The Last Leg
2.20am Hollyoaks Omnibus
4.25am Coast v Country
5.20am Location, Location, Location
6.15am King of Queens
6.40am King of Queens

6.00pm The Secret Life of Puppies
7.00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald
8.00pm Britannia: Secrets of the Royal Yacht
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Football on 5
10.30pm Britain's Favourite Biscuit
11.55pm Cruising with Jane McDonald
12.10am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Divine Designs
5.35am Wildlife SOS
6.00am Little Princess

Oxford **Philharmonic** Orchestra

op

Saturday 3 March 2018, Oxford Town Hall, 7.30pm

Oxfordshire Concerto Competition Final

WALTON
Violin Concerto
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Victoria Gill
violin

SCRIABIN
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Joshua Asokan
piano

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Easter Mystery Tours
30/03/18
4 Day tours
Coach 1: 4 Star Hotel £299
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These are always popular and allow you to get away over Easter weekends For Easter we have the choice of 2 Mysteries! A 4 star hotel with great leisure facilities plus a 3 course Sunday Lunch, or a seaside hotel! There will also be interesting towns visited on the way to and back from the destination and there will be an included excursion from the hotel on the middle day(s).

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Eastbourne, Sussex Coast & Countryside
06/04/18
5 Days: £329

Eastbourne is one of England's premier seaside resorts. It has a magnificent Victorian seafront and there are beautiful parks and gardens to enjoy. This year we will be staying at the delightful New Wilmington Hotel which is a fine family run hotel just off the seafront. On this tour we have also included trips to Rye, Tenterden, Brighton & much more!

The Outer Hebrides
19/05/18
8 Days: £769

Includes Isles of Lewis, Harris, Benbecula, North and South Uist plus Skye.

A journey of discovery visiting no less than 6 of Scotland's Western Isles! Some are linked by causeway and there are ferry rides between others amidst stunning and ever-changing scenery. This is a circular tour travelling up and back by different routes so you see the best of the Scottish mainland as well. We will be staying at multiple hotels on this tour including King Robert Hotel based in Stirling, Cabarfeidh Hotel based in Storonway and the Dark island Hotel in Benbecula.

Ypres, Passchendaele & Memories of WWI
13/04/18
4 Days: £489

This tour takes in the main battlefront where more than 250,000 British & Commonwealth soldiers lost their lives. Our base in Ypres allows us to attend the service in which each night, at 8pm, the Last Post is played to commemorate the 55,000 men who were never found. This tour includes visits to Essex Farm, Poperinge, Talbot House, Thiepval Memorial - the largest British War Memorial in the world and much more. Our hotel for this tour will be 4 star Hotel Ariane, Ypres which is set in quiet surroundings with only a short walk from the town centre.

Mill Rythe Holiday Village
07/05/18
5 Days: £309

Includes Hayling Island and includes Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth.

Great British holidays start at Away Resorts, and we stay at this one on Hayling Island which highlights everything that is great about the UK. At night Mill Rythe really comes alive with an incredible Entertainments Team that stage the most amazing shows.

Sunday February 25th

TOP TV

BBC 1

3.30pm Songs of Praise

BBC 2

8.00pm Top Gear

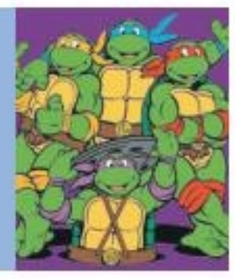
ITV

11.30am The Voice UK

Channel 4

5.00pm Ice Age: Continental Drift

Channel 5



9.40am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

MORNING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
7.30am Match of the Day	**11.00am** Winter Olympics	**9.05am** Wishfart	**7.05am** Everybody Loves Raymond	**9.10am** Digby Dragon
9.00am The Andrew Marr Show		**9.25am** ITV News	**8.00am** Frasier	**9.30am** Peppa Pig
10.00am The Big Questions		**9.30am** Love Your Garden	**9.30am** Sunday Brunch	**9.40am** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
11.00am Sunday Politics		**10.00am** Peston on Sunday		**10.05am** Football on 5
		11.00am The Martin Lewis Money Show		**11.35am** The Bridge at Remagen
		11.30am The Voice UK		

AFTERNOON

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
12.15pm Bargain Hunt	**2.00pm** Athletics	**12.45pm** ITV Lunchtime News	**12.30pm** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast	**1.50pm** A Bridge Too Far
1.00pm BBC News	**5.30pm** Flog It!	**1.00pm** Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway	**1.30pm** Jamie's Quick and Easy Food	**5.05pm** Where Eagles Dare
1.15pm Wanted Down Under Revisited		**2.30pm** What Would Your Kid Do?	**2.00pm** The Simpsons	
2.00pm Money for Nothing		**3.30pm** Tipping Point	**2.30pm** The Simpsons	
2.45pm Get Away for Winter		**4.30pm** ITV Evening News	**2.55pm** Tooth Fairy	
3.30pm Songs of Praise		**4.50pm** ITV News London	**5.00pm** Ice Age: Continental Drift	
4.05pm Earth's Natural Wonders		**5.00pm** The Chase: Celebrity Special		

EVENING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
6.05pm BBC News	**6.00pm** Back in Time for Tea	**6.00pm** Dancing on Ice	**6.35pm** Channel 4 News	**8.00pm** Football on 5
6.20pm Regional News and Weather	**7.00pm** Winter Olympics	**8.00pm** Endeavour	**7.00pm** Posh Pawn	**8.55pm** 5 News Weekend
6.30pm Countryfile	**8.00pm** Top Gear	**10.00pm** ITV News	**8.00pm** Hannibal's Elephant Army: The New Evidence	**9.00pm** Trainwreck
7.30pm Hold the Sunset	**9.00pm** Life and Death Row	**10.15pm** Peston on Sunday	**9.00pm** Homeland	**10.00pm** 5 News
8.00pm Call the Midwife	**10.15pm** The Mash Report	**11.15pm** Six Nations Highlights	**10.10pm** Gogglebox	**10.05pm** Trainwreck
9.00pm Strike - Career of Evil	**10.45pm** Top Gear: Extra Gear	**12.10am** 100 Year Old Driving School	**11.05pm** Shutter Island	**11.35pm** Sex Tape
10.00pm BBC News	**11.10pm** Cleverman	**12.35am** Marcella	**1.35am** The World's Most Expensive Food	**1.15am** Super Casino
10.20pm Regional News and Weather	**12.00am** Women's Six Nations Highlights	**1.25am** Jackpot247	**2.30am** The Supervet	**3.10am** Cowboy Builders
10.30pm Match of the Day 2	**12.30am** Question Time	**3.00am** Take on the Twisters	**3.25am** Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny	**4.00am** My Mum's Hotter Than Me!
11.15pm Point Break	**1.30am** Holby City	**3.50am** ITV Nightscreen	**4.15am** KOTV Boxing Weekly	**4.45am** House Doctor
1.10am Weather for the Week Ahead	**2.30am** This is BBC Two	**5.05am** The Jeremy Kyle Show	**4.40am** Mobil 1 The Grid	**5.10am** Divine Designs
1.15am BBC News	**6.00am** Coast	**6.00am** Good Morning Britain	**5.10am** Coast v Country	**5.35am** Wildlife SOS
6.00am Breakfast	**6.30am** Get Away for Winter			**6.00am** Puffin Rock
				6.05am Poppy Cat

Its official.

Hearing aids can do more than improve your hearing.

Following a survey carried out in 2015 by Anovum (a market research company) on 1325 hearing impaired people (605 hearing aid wearers and 720 not wearing hearing aids). The survey reports that hearing aids not only improve capabilities of hearing well but also improved the general health of hearing aid wearers compared to hearing impaired people who do not wear a hearing aid. Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have the symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that their hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015 – ehima

A new hearing system is just the beginning and a hearing aid system is only as good as the audiologist prescribing and programming it.

At Keith Donaghy Hearingcare we offer the best bespoke hearing aid systems virtually unnoticeable fitting comfortably into your ear.

Keith will help you every step of the way whilst you adjust to your new hearing ability, for some this takes months for others a matter of a few weeks but Keith is always on hand to answer questions or give advice on getting the best from your system. The last thing he wants (as is often the case when insufficient aftercare is available) is for your hearing aids to end up in the back of a drawer somewhere, unused because you felt that nothing else could be done to rectify any programming or rehabilitation problems.

Keith wants to know if you have any concerns about your hearing aids, no matter how big or small, so that you and he can work together to achieve the best results.

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Monday February 26th

TOP TV

BBC 1

10.00am Homes Under the Hammer

BBC 2

1.30pm Perfection

ITV

12.30pm Loose Women

Channel 4

8.30pm Food Unwrapped

Channel 5

10.00pm The X Files

MORNING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
9.15am Murder, Mystery and My Family	**7.15am** Escape to the Country	**8.30am** Lorraine	**7.10am** 3rd Rock from the Sun	**8.35am** Rusty Rivets
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer	**8.00am** Hugh's Wild West	**9.25am** The Jeremy Kyle Show	**7.35am** Everybody Loves Raymond	**8.55am** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11.00am Wanted Down Under Revisited	**9.00am** Victoria Derbyshire	**10.30am** This Morning	**8.30am** Frasier	**9.05am** Mofy
11.45am Caught Red Handed	**11.00am** BBC Newsroom Live		**10.05am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	**9.15am** The Wright Stuff
	11.30am The Week in Parliament		**11.00am** Undercover Boss USA	**11.15am** Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
12.15pm Bargain Hunt	**12.00pm** The Daily Politics	**12.30pm** Loose Women	**12.00pm** Channel 4 News	**12.10pm** 5 News Lunchtime
1.00pm BBC News at One	**1.00pm** Women's Six Nations Highlights	**1.30pm** ITV Lunchtime News	**12.05pm** Come Dine with Me	**12.15pm** GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.30pm Regional News and Weather	**1.30pm** Perfection	**1.55pm** ITV News London	**1.05pm** Posh Pawnbrokers	**1.15pm** Home and Away
1.45pm Doctors	**2.15pm** Yes Chef	**2.00pm** James Martin's American Adventure	**2.10pm** Countdown	**1.45pm** Neighbours
2.15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway	**3.00pm** A Place to Call Home	**3.00pm** Tenable	**3.00pm** A Place in the Sun	**2.15pm** NCIS
3.00pm Escape to the Country	**3.55pm** More Creatures Great and Small	**4.00pm** Tipping Point	**4.00pm** A New Life in the Sun	**3.15pm** Killer Obsession
3.45pm Get Away for Winter	**4.25pm** Caribbean with Simon Reeve	**5.00pm** The Chase	**5.00pm** Four in a Bed	**5.00pm** 5 News at 5
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip	**5.25pm** Flog It!		**5.30pm** Extreme Cake Makers	**5.30pm** Neighbours
5.15pm Pointless				

EVENING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
6.00pm BBC News at Six	**6.00pm** Eggheads	**6.00pm** ITV News London	**6.00pm** The Simpsons	**6.00pm** Home and Away
6.30pm Regional News and Weather	**6.30pm** Great British Railway Journeys	**6.30pm** ITV Evening News	**6.30pm** Hollyoaks	**6.30pm** 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The One Show	**7.00pm** Top Gear	**7.00pm** Emmerdale	**7.00pm** Channel 4 News	**7.00pm** Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights
7.30pm Inside Out	**8.00pm** Only Connect	**7.30pm** Coronation Street	**8.00pm** Dispatches	**8.00pm** Extreme Winter Road Rescue
8.00pm EastEnders	**8.30pm** University Challenge	**8.00pm** The Martin Lewis Money Show	**8.30pm** Food Unwrapped	**9.00pm** The Unstoppable Flying Scotsman
8.30pm Classic Mary Berry	**9.00pm** Collateral	**8.30pm** Coronation Street	**9.00pm** 24 Hours in Police Custody	**10.00pm** The X Files
9.00pm MasterChef	**10.00pm** Two Doors Down	**9.00pm** Marcella	**10.00pm** Electric Dreams	**11.00pm** Elysium
10.00pm BBC News at Ten	**10.30pm** Newsnight	**10.00pm** ITV News at Ten and Weather	**11.05pm** Married at First Sight	**1.00am** Super Casino
10.30pm Regional News and Weather	**11.15pm** Murdered for Love? Samia Shahid	**10.30pm** ITV News London	**12.10am** The ¬£1 Houses: Britain's Cheapest Street	**3.10am** Cowboy Builders
10.45pm Have I Got Old News for You	**12.15am** Odyssey	**10.50pm** John Worboys: The Taxi Cab Rapist with Susanna Reid	**1.05am** The Job Interview	**4.00am** My Mum's Hotter Than Me!
11.15pm The Graham Norton Show	**12.55am** Odyssey	**11.50pm** Serial Killer with Piers Morgan	**2.00am** Supershoppers Savers Special	**4.45am** House Doctor
12.05am Weather for the Week Ahead	**1.40am** Countryfile	**12.40am** Jackpot247	**2.55am** The Question Jury	**5.10am** Divine Designs
12.10am BBC News	**2.35am** Charles I's Treasures Reunited	**3.00am** The Jeremy Kyle Show	**3.45am** Coast v Country	
6.00am Breakfast				

Tuesday February 27th

TOP TV

BBC 1

11.45am Caught Red Handed

BBC 2

2.15pm Yes Chef

ITV

7.30pm 100 Year Old Driving School

Channel 4

1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers

Channel 5

2.15pm NCIS

MORNING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
9.15am Murder, Mystery and My Family	**7.15am** Wanted Down Under Revisited	**8.30am** Lorraine	**7.10am** 3rd Rock from the Sun	**8.20am** Digby Dragon
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer	**8.00am** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip	**9.25am** The Jeremy Kyle Show	**7.35am** Everybody Loves Raymond	**8.35am** Rusty Rivets
11.00am Wanted Down Under Revisited	**9.00am** Victoria Derbyshire	**10.30am** This Morning	**8.30am** Frasier	**8.55am** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11.45am Caught Red Handed	**11.00am** BBC Newsroom Live		**10.05am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	**9.05am** Mofy
			11.00am Undercover Boss USA	**9.15am** The Wright Stuff
				11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
12.15pm Bargain Hunt	**12.00pm** The Daily Politics	**12.30pm** Loose Women	**12.00pm** Channel 4 News	**12.10pm** 5 News Lunchtime
1.00pm BBC News at One	**1.00pm** The Super League Show	**1.30pm** ITV Lunchtime News	**12.05pm** Come Dine with Me	**12.15pm** GPs: Behind Closed Doors
1.30pm Regional News and Weather	**1.45pm** Plan it, Build it	**1.55pm** ITV News London	**1.05pm** Posh Pawnbrokers	**1.15pm** Home and Away
1.45pm Doctors	**2.15pm** Yes Chef	**2.00pm** James Martin's American Adventure	**2.10pm** Countdown	**1.45pm** Neighbours
2.15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway	**3.00pm** A Place to Call Home	**3.00pm** Tenable	**3.00pm** A Place in the Sun	**2.15pm** NCIS
3.00pm Escape to the Country	**3.55pm** More Creatures Great and Small	**4.00pm** Tipping Point	**4.00pm** A New Life in the Sun	**3.15pm** Killer Collector
3.45pm Get Away for Winter	**4.25pm** Caribbean with Simon Reeve	**5.00pm** The Chase	**5.00pm** Four in a Bed	**5.00pm** 5 News at 5
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip	**5.25pm** Flog It!		**5.30pm** Extreme Cake Makers	**5.30pm** Neighbours
5.15pm Pointless				

EVENING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
6.00pm BBC News at Six	**6.00pm** Eggheads	**6.00pm** ITV News London	**6.00pm** The Simpsons	**6.00pm** Home and Away
6.30pm Regional News and Weather	**6.30pm** Great British Railway Journeys	**6.30pm** ITV Evening News	**6.30pm** Hollyoaks	**6.30pm** 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The One Show	**7.00pm** Sea Cities - Brighton	**7.00pm** Emmerdale	**7.00pm** Channel 4 News	**7.00pm** Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild
7.30pm EastEnders	**8.00pm** Back in Time for Tea	**7.30pm** 100 Year Old Driving School	**8.00pm** How to Get Fit Fast	**8.00pm** Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
8.00pm Holby City	**9.00pm** Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	**8.00pm** What Would Your Kid Do?	**9.00pm** 24 Hours in A and E	**9.00pm** Elizabeth: Our Queen
9.00pm Shetland	**10.00pm** Mum	**9.00pm** 100 Years Younger in 21 Days	**10.00pm** The Fgm Detectives	**10.00pm** Ben Fogle: Return to the Wild
10.00pm BBC News at Ten	**10.25pm** The Archiveologists	**10.00pm** ITV News at Ten and Weather	**11.00pm** Before We Die	**11.05pm** Sinkholes
10.30pm Regional News and Weather	**10.30pm** Newsnight	**10.30pm** ITV News London	**12.15am** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	**12.05am** Weather Terror
10.45pm Acid Attack: My Story	**11.15pm** An Island Parish	**10.45pm** Through the Keyhole	**1.00am** It's a Weird World	**1.00am** Super Casino
11.30pm Miranda Hart: My, What I Call, Live Show	**12.15am** Generation Gifted	**11.45pm** Sunday Night at the Palladium	**1.55am** The Supervet	**3.10am** Cowboy Builders
12.30am Weather for the Week Ahead	**1.20am** Royal Recipes	**12.35am** Jackpot247	**2.50am** The Question Jury	**4.00am** My Mum's Hotter Than Me!
12.35am BBC News	**2.00am** This is BBC Two	**3.00am** Loose Women	**3.45am** Coast v Country	**4.45am** House Doctor
6.00am Breakfast	**6.00am** Caught Red Handed	**3.50am** ITV Nightscreen	**4.40am** Location, Location, Location	
		5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show		

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Advertorial

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Wagging Tails provide a home from home dog boarding service where dogs stay with one of our carefully selected carers as a member of the family for their very own holiday. All of their carers are experienced dog owners and are at home during the day to give the dogs the warmth and comfort they would get at home, along with plenty of exercise and attention.

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"I love earning the trust of each new dog I board and looking after and learning about different breeds is a delight. Walking in the fields and woods around my home with a visiting dog is a joy."
David, Wagging Tails Carer

If you have experience of owning a dog but now find yourself without any pets, then providing a loving home by becoming a Wagging Tails carer can be both a fun and rewarding time for you and the dogs in your care. Alternatively perhaps you own one dog who would enjoy the company of a holiday guest!

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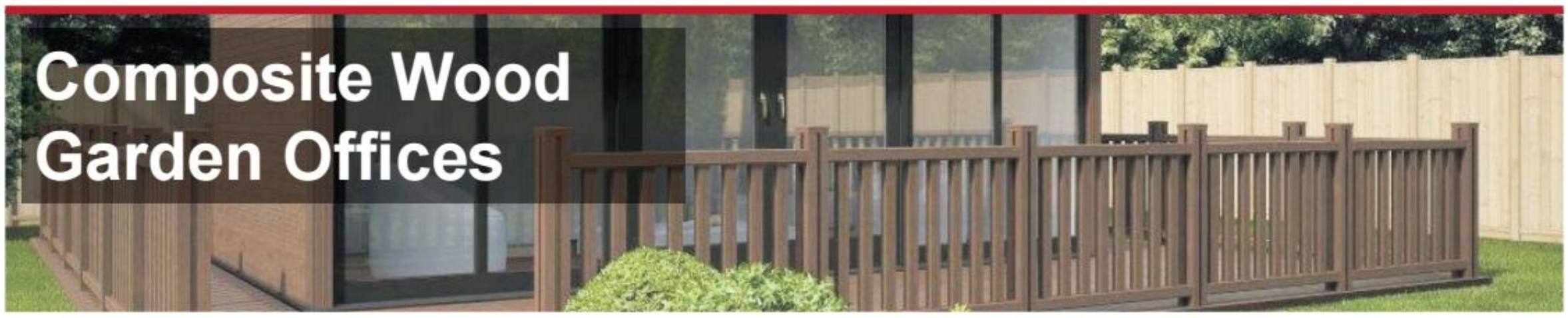

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Who Cares?

Advertising Feature

Spring on the wing

You're never too old to be a bird-watcher, and bird-watching can be done anywhere with a window however mobile or otherwise you are. You can even buy clear plastic bird feeders that fix directly on to the outside of a window with suckers. Just add bird seed and wait as daytime entertainment flies in! Add binoculars to zoom in close – though do remember to check their suitability for older eyes. Because a person's pupils dilate less with age, binoculars for more elderly bird-watchers are less likely to benefit from the light channelled through larger binoculars, and so a lighter mid-sized pair may be best.

It's a great time of year to be bird-watching because winter has past and suddenly we can see the birds clearly before garden foliage grows too thick and dense, and flowers divert attention away from a tree's branches. There is also lots of activity in the air as nest-building commences: even in an urban yard, you can expect to see robins, sparrows, blue tits, blackbirds and other garden birds fly back and forth with twigs and other plant matter. Migrant birds such as the sand martin also fly back to Oxfordshire this month.

Traditional wisdom has, in the past, suggested that with the onset of meteorological spring, whatever the weather, birds should be beginning to fend for themselves and bird watchers should no longer provide a helping hand. But in the bird world, early March can be a time of acute shortages as the last of the berries have long been eaten and, given the human impact of the environment of changes in society over the last generation such as building on swathes of natural land and the removal of hedgerows for modern farming methods, it can be hard for birds to find adequate resources this month so supplementing the diet of local birds can make a real difference to their strength and breeding capacity.

A bird feeder is good for the bird populations as well as bringing them into your view, and earshot – and the sound of a bird's call can be very evocative, triggering memories of childhood or past adventures in the great outdoors. For those whose horizons have shrunk over time and sometimes feel caged by circumstance, the chirpy tones from outside the window can be uplifting.

It's a welcome feeling, knowing spring is on its way.

Esther Lafferty, *Day and Night-care Assistance*

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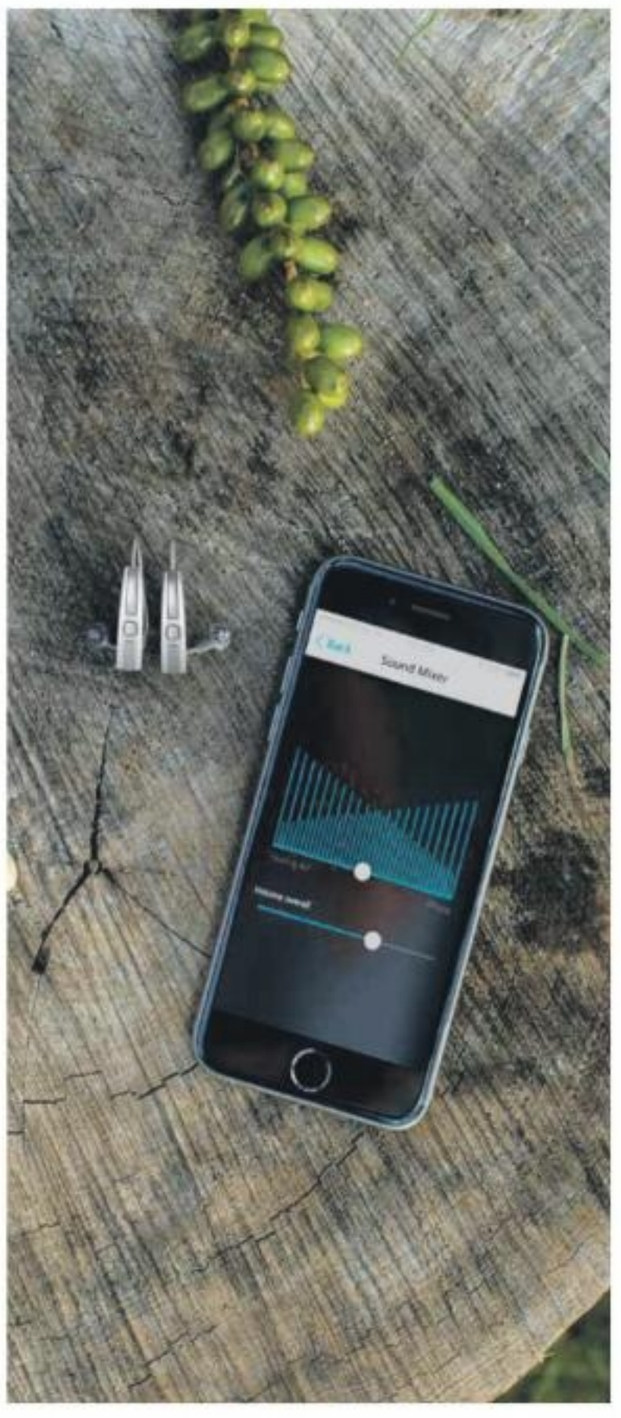

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Oxford Private Rents Average £27.92 per sq. foot

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

Gone are the days of making money by buying any old Oxford property to rent out or sell on. Nowadays, property investment is part art and part science. The art is your gut reaction to a property, but science must also play its part on a property's future viability for investment.

Many metrics most property professionals (including myself) use when deciding the viability of a rental property is what properties are selling for, the average rent, the yield and an average value per square foot.

However, another metric I like to use is the average rent per square foot. The reason being it is a great way to judge a property from the point of view of the tenant ... what space do they get for their money. Like people buying a property, tenants must balance between better vs. worse location, more vs. less money and larger vs. smaller accommodation.

I know there are a lot of you in Oxford who like to read statistics on the Oxford property market, so before I talk about the rental figures per square foot, I wanted to share the £ per square foot for sales values. In Oxford, the current AVERAGE figures being achieved by properties are:

- Oxford Detached Property - £472 / sq ft
- Oxford Semi Detached Property - £476 / sq ft
- Oxford Terraced Property - £509 / sq ft
- Oxford Apartments - £537 / sq ft

So, the rental figures:

The average size of a rental property in the Oxford area is 833.2 sq ft compared to the national average of 792.1 sq ft.

This means the average rent per square foot currently being achieved on an Oxford rental property is £27.92 per sq ft per annum

So, what we can deduce from this? Well the devil is in detail!

Something quite intriguing happens to the figures, in terms of what the property will sell for and what it will rent for, as the size of the property increases.

My research shows that doubling the size of any Oxford property doesn't mean you will double the value of it ... in either value or rent. This is because the marginal value diminishes as the size of the property increases. In Oxford what appears to happen is that a doubling of size gives an approximate 40% to 65% uplift in value, but here comes the even more fascinating part ... when it came to the rental figures, doubling the size of the house generates only a 20% to 45% in increase in rent.

Major milestone for retirement builder.... as Wantage development hits 50% sold out

Renaissance Retirement has announced it has reached a major milestone having sold 50 per cent of its new retirement apartments in Wantage.

The development opened in November and sales have been encouraging with over 15 apartments sold to date, making it one of the company's fastest selling developments.

Over £1m of top end retirement apartments were sold in the opening week when the company opened the doors to the public and the company has reported another two sales in January.

The development, built on the former magistrates' court and Police station on Church Street, comprises 32 one and two bed spacious apartments. The company has been attracting a wide range of interested buyers from the local area.

Renaissance Retirement's sales director Matt Smith said: "It's a very encouraging start. We are now over 50 per cent sold out and have good interest in a number of apartments. It's an exciting time for potential buyers having this choice of size of apartment and central location in Wantage."

Matt added: "There is very strong interest in the Wantage area for good quality retirement apartments. Our sales message is clear – come and view some very smart, spacious, energy efficient flats while there's good availability."

Chris Wotton, marketing director at Renaissance Retirement, said: "If it's an easier lifestyle people are looking for this is perfect. Only a few hundred steps to the market square you have superb access to the very best Wantage offers on your doorstep."

Renaissance Retirement claims it's responding to market demand with its development which offers bigger more spacious retirement flats.

The luxurious properties will provide an exceptional standard of independent living for those considering downsizing from a larger family home.

The spacious one and two bedroom apartments are impeccably finished with contemporary interiors, whilst owners also have access to an owners' drawing room and landscaped gardens.

Renaissance Retirement has a distinguished history; the company was handpicked by HRH Prince of Wales to build a landmark collection of retirement apartments in the heart of Poundbury, Dorchester.

Noticing a demand for luxury retirement housing, Renaissance Retirement design, build and manage luxury retirement developments, with communal areas meticulously cleaned and maintained to ensure a level of comfort that one would expect in a 4 star hotel.

The company offers a number of added owner incentives and benefits, and Renaissance's complementary SmoothMove Service – which is offered to all owners at no extra cost – has proven particularly popular. This bespoke service includes a dedicated SmoothMove Consultant, who can offer advice and assistance with downsizing, the planning and setting up of their new home, and administrative tasks.

Prices start from £290,000 to £475,000.

Interested buyers can drop in for a tour Monday to Sunday 10.30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To register your interest for a brochure, and for further information, visit: www.renaissancegroup.co.uk or 01235 766398 for more information.

PROPERTY WEEKLY

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WANTAGE A well proportioned and presented, individually architect designed detached home. Including oak doors throughout, zoned under floor heating downstairs and open plan kitchen/diner with bi-fold doors. EPC Rating B

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WALLINGFORD Significantly improved by the current owners this cottage has numerous selling features; 2 bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, a first floor bathroom and downstairs WC and double glazed sash windows. EPC Rating D

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GROVE An extended detached home with south facing garden, driveway and garage. With three good sized bedrooms, open plan living/dining room, study, kitchen with access to the rear garden and separate bathroom & W/C. EPC Rating D.

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Subaru Levorg 1.6i SE GT Lineartronic

Boxer really helps Levorg to pack a punch

By **Tony Yates**

This week's review puts me in the driving seat of the Subaru Levorg. But, straight away, I know what you are all thinking 'what is a Subaru Levorg'? Well, I'm glad you asked that question because the Levorg is a car that you don't see very often on the UK roads, and until my test drive this week, I didn't know much about it either. What I will say though is that the Levorg really is the wolf in sheep's clothing.

Power & efficiency

The Levorg was equipped with a 1600cc Boxer - horizontally opposed DOHC 16V direct injection turbo petrol engine - a unit that provides a maximum power output of 170 PS @4,800 – 5,600rpm and a torque figure of 250Nm @1,800 – 4,800rpm. On the combined cycle I achieved 36mpg which is not outstanding, but still good for a car that I consider to be a big vehicle. If you are interested, the Levorg will also reach a top speed of around130mph and 0-62mph of 8.9s. So yes, this is a large vehicle, but it's certainly no slouch.

So, in the real world, does the Boxer engine design work? Well, for me it does. It sounds great, gets a move on with minimal fuss and has plenty of low down grunt. Yes, It's not as refined as some, but then again I don't want it to be refined, I want to feel that characteristic Boxer engine thumping away ahead of me as I head for the hills.

On the road

The Levorg feels great on any road surface and that's thanks to its predictable handling and smooth ride. Remember the Levorg also has some decent off-road capabilities and is in itself an effortless car to drive thanks mainly to the Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive layout which includes an active torque split system which helps further increase the off-road credentials of the Levorg.

Then, there are the brakes, which feel very good thanks to 316mm ventilated discs at the front and 300mm at the rear. I kid you not, hit the pedal like you mean it, and the Levorg will come to a controlled stop in no time at all. So, no issues there then.

Design & technology

Some of the standard equipment on the Levorg comes in the form of Automatic LED headlights, 18" aluminium alloy wheels, automatic air conditioning system, 7" multifunction colour touchscreen, EyeSight, 4.3" LCD multi-information display, adaptive cruise control, ABS with Electronic Brake-force Distribution, front, side, curtain & knee airbags, Thatcham Cat 1 alarm Immobiliser, Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, Vehicle Dynamics Control, Hill Start Assist, Active Torque Vectoring, plus some of the most comfortable seats I have ever sat in.

You also get an auto-dimming rearview mirror, power windows, welcome lighting, Bluetooth, dual USB ports, reversing camera and a voice recognition system. Of course, as usual, I have only just scratched the surface on what the Levorg has to offer.

To sum up

The Levorg is a decent car with plenty to offer. It's like a dependable dog; it will be everything you ever wanted it to be and then some. Although, there are areas where I feel the interior could feel a touch more special. But saying that, it's still very functional and the drive is very rewarding thanks mainly to that unmistakable Boxer sound. I'm going to give the Levorg four stars in this test because it truly is a machine that will always deliver.

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Volvo XC40 crowned What Car? Car of the Year

- Volvo's first ever compact SUV named What Car? Car of the Year 2018
- XC40 also takes Best Family SUV title
- Praised for its style, quality, comfort and safety
- Volvo XC60 wins What Car? Safety Award

The Volvo XC40 has won the What Car? Car of the Year 2018 award, just four months after it went on sale.

The What Car? judges were seriously impressed with the premium XC40, saying: "This is a big moment for Volvo, because the XC40 has beaten some truly exceptional rivals to win here. With its mix of comfort and class, safety and style, the new XC40 excels in all the areas that are important to buyers.

The XC40 brings a new level of flair and desirability to the compact SUV class. It mixes bold looks with cutting-edge technology, along with class-leading safety and ingenious interior storage.

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Commenting on the awards, Jon Wakefield, Managing Director of Volvo Car UK, said: "Winning the overall What Car? Car of the Year award for the XC40 is a fantastic result – not just for everyone here in the UK, but for Volvo as a global company. The XC40 perfectly showcases the bold new direction Volvo is taking, and brings our class-leading connectivity, semi-autonomous drive technology and innovative storage solutions to the premium compact SUV segment.

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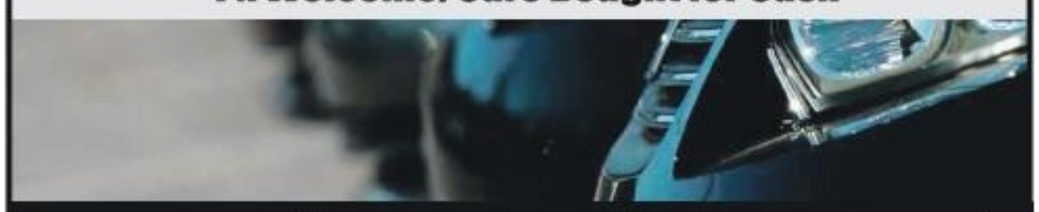

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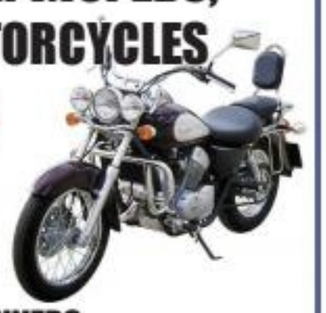

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ARON Cardigan true Aron wool quite heavy neutral colour size 14 £20 tel: 01865 454713

LADIES classic casual coat colour cream brown trim full length size 14 £30 tel: 01865 454713

ECCO shoes light brown suede laces size 8 never worn cost £75 new now £40 tel: 01865 454713

JESSOPS 8inch digital picture frame £25 tel: 01865 763851

PARKER Knowle small arm chair wooden arms £15 tel: 01865 763851

STAG Minstrel three mirrored 5ft dressing table with five small drawers knee hole excellent condition £30 no offers tel: 01235 530424

STAG Minstrel high chest four drawers plus three small ones excellent condition £20 no offers tel: 01235 530424

TOM Tom one sat nav old but in good working order with box and books £20 tel: 01865 433089

LADIES bike 22in wheels front and rear carriers fat tyres good con £10 tel: 01865 433089

RECLINING deck of chairs 2 with cushions UPVC white £5 each 3 folding deck chairs metal frame £5 tel: 01865 433089

GARDEN tools fork spade shovel and other bits £10 pole hedge cutter electric heavy duty £35 tel: 01685 433089

1893 Queen Victoria 50 cents coin brooch £50 jewellery assorted necklaces two gents rings maybe gold £30 the lot tel: 01295 258550

VERY rare large Rolls Royce tea pot £25 also wade tea pots £3 each tel: 01295 258550

SLIDING glass w/ drobe doors two cream and coloured one mirrored to fit recess 2.3m x 2.36 buyer collects £60 tel: 01491 281281

SAMSUNG 32" LCD TV good working order remote control instructions booklet and new leads £70 tel: OX 374163

DC rack black metal H 125 holds 75 very compact rack it's a space saver £7 tel: 07980403171

NISSAN headlamp/ side tit 04-06 Almera model nice condition as new £20 tel: 07980403171

GARDEN Pebbles mixed sizes approx. 50 in total. Nice for ornamental look pond or garden edging £12 tel: 07980403171

PLAYER piano rous £6 each tel: 01256 467527

WANTED country artists/country birds collection bird ornaments tel: 01235 533363

CLAUD butler racing bike 14 gears good condition offers tel: 01235 533363

JAMES Bond's Pierce Brosnam BP advert display signed in black marker £40 tel: 01189 667940

M&S blazer dark navy woollen size 14-16 length 30 £15 tel: 01235 523162

TRENCH style mac 14-16 dark green £10 tel: 01235 523162

POPLIN jackets size 14 £10 tel: 01235 523162

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MAMOD traction engine tel: 01235 523599

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WANTED wheelchair with big or small wheels must be up to date and in excellent condition tel: 01865 327635

BABYS high chair for sale very good condition £10 buyer collects Witney tel: 07756 644842

BRAND new portable record player for sale. Unwanted gift black case easy carry Witney tel: 07756 644842

PAUL Smith blue jeans regular style 34" waist length £20 M&S dark navy blazer size 14-16 30h tel: 01235 523162

NAVY Blazer size 14-16 woollen £15 poplin jacket for sale £10 for 2 size 14 tel: 01235 523162Petrol strimmer with hedge cutter attachment g/con £30 tel: 01235 835608

MCCULLOCH electrical chain saw good condition £20 tel: 01235 835608

AIR rifle 2.2 good condition £50 tel: 01235 835608

NEW steam generator iron only £50 clarks black ankle boots like new size 8 £8 tel: 01295 258550

PAVERS cross stitch flat shoes cream and beige size 8 like new £10 tel: 01295 258550

THREE-PIECE suite one recliner chair one arm chair one three-seater two cushion sofa £260 tel: 01235 678880

WINTER wheels hedgehog sleeves for 12 inch trolley wheels with clips and instructions boxed unused £10 tel: 01295 255173

MENS shoes size 8 black all leather Tywhitt Alnwick bagged boxed unused top quality UK made £50 tel: 01295 255173

FOUR NCK glow plugs suitable for citreon/ Peugeot 1.9 diesel unused boxed £15 tel: 01865 891271

ONE set finger rotors for merry tiller rotovator £30 tel: 01865 891271

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KEY lock safe size H20 W31 D20 cms argos cat number 634 5240 £15 tel: 07979 370112

SENTRY fire resistant box key lock 35x24x14 external size £15 tel: 07979 370112

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MIRROR wall hanging ornate gold coloured frame 80cm height 58cm wide including frame 320 ono tel: 07979 370112

MOBILE phone with charger old and basic £6 tel: 07979 370112

SUITCASE pair silver hard sided 2 wheels h50 w40 d23 cms other smaller fits inside £30 will separate tel: 07979 370112

MOBILTY scooter free oldish needs battery buyer collects does work need clean and oiling up tel: 01235 821338

LADIES bike single speed with basket and pump £50 ono 4 videos of Will Hay £25 ono tel: 07586 067412

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HUMLIN 5-in-1 wireless headphones boxed as new £10 tel: 01865 711077

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FOR sale get slim for spring exercise ball dvd and books still boxed £6 tel: OX 873406

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MOUNTFIELD 21" mower with grass box £150 ono tel: 01865 890539

SILVER folding scooter hardly used £15 tel: 01865 736184

GENTS rad and black mountain bike £25 tel: 01235 522843

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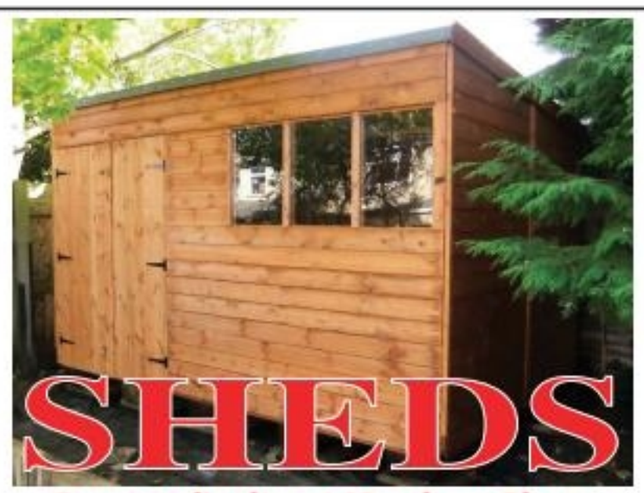

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Cars revealed, drivers ready

Thrills and spills ahead in new F1 season

Williams' FW41
Picture: *Williams Martini Racing*

F1

DRIVERS named, new cars unveiled and specs confirmed – the 2018 Formula One season is nearly here.

The three Oxfordshire teams – Williams, Renault and Haas – were among the first to launch their cars for the coming season.

Regulations introduced for the 2018 season mean all the cars are equipped with a halo cockpit safety device and have had the sharkfin engine cover and T-wing removed.

Haas was first out of the gate when it revealed its VF-18 challenger last Wednesday.

The Banbury outfit, who finished eighth last season for the second year running, hope the new racer will enable them to "close the gap to the top teams".

Boss Gunther Steiner said the car was an "evolution" of last year's model.

Williams was next to follow with their FW41 at a reveal event in London on Thursday.

The Grove-based team, who will be led by two young drivers Lance Stroll and Sergey Sirotkin, will be looking to better their fifth-placed finish in 2017.

Chief technical officer Paddy Lowe promised a raft of changes underneath and that, externally, "significant progress" has been made in aero performance.

Renault joined the party when they revealed their RS18 car on Tuesday.

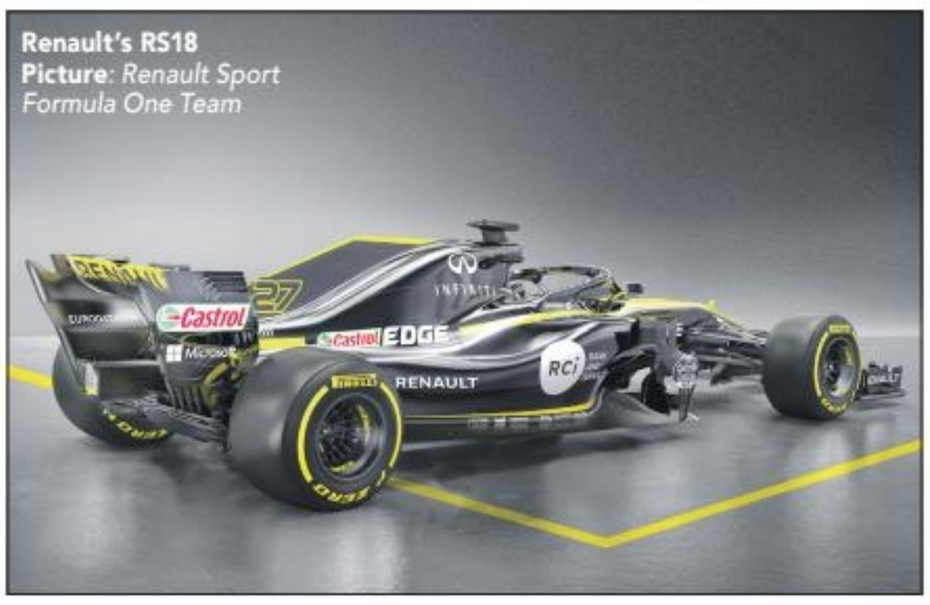
It is the Enstone side's third chassis since returning to the sport as a factory team. After working on the suspension and downforce, "progression and refinement" on last year's car is expected.

Red Bull and Sauber are the other two teams to unveil their cars so far.

Mercedes and Ferrari are expected to reveal their cars today (Thursday).

McLaren are expected to pull the cloth back tomorrow with Toro Rosso set to reveal its livery on Monday. Force India's date is unconfirmed.

The new season starts on March 25 in Melbourne, Australia.



Renault's RS18
Picture: *Renault Sport Formula One Team*

Haas' VF-18
Picture: *Haas F1*

Good signs in second tests

MotoGP

BRADLEY Smith believes his KTM team is 'more in the mix' following the second MotoGP testing session ahead of next month's season opener.

The Forest Hill rider finished 16th at the weekend's testing session in Thailand, up three places from last month's session in Malaysia.

The 27-year-old was encouraged by braking improvements as the Red Bull outfit tested a new chassis as well as new suspension and aerodynamic parts.

Smith said: "I think that we're in a better situation than we were in after Malaysia. The strength of the KTM last year was under braking and that's very important here in Thailand and we found it much better this week.

"It's been good to test here and learn the track and we're definitely more in the mix compared to the Malaysian test."

Injury forced team-mate Pol Espargaro to sit out the three-day test but Smith and stand-in Mika Kallio made 'significant' progress with the KTM RC16 bike, the team said.

Team manager Mike Leitner praised Smith's "great job" in testing, adding: "I think that we've been able to see a direction for us to follow for the start of the season and that we can be quite happy with this test."

There is a final testing session in Qatar on March 1 before the 2018 season gets off to a racing start at the Losail International Circuit in the same country on March 18.

Easy win over the tame Lions

Ice Hockey

BOTTOM of the table Lee Valley Lions were never going to cause too much fuss for top of the table Oxford City Stars, who cruised to an 8-0 win on Sunday.

Kamil Kinkor was the star of the show in east London with a hat-trick.

The Lions are still without a win the season and are on a run that has reaped a solitary point in 19 games.

No one was surprised then that City strolled to victory.

Goals from Joshua Oliver (8 minutes), Matthew Lawday (11) and two from Kinkor (9 & 20) gave the away side a 4-0 lead after the first period.

Kinkor's third (29) and a Michael Whillock (35) strike extended the lead to six by the end of the middle session before Dominic Hopkins (48) and Andrew Cox (56) rounded off the easy win in the final 20.

The victory extended Oxford's winning run to five games, a run that tallied up half a century of goals for the Oxpens Road side – conceding only seven during the same spell.

Oxford are top by one point, although nearest rivals Solent Devils have a game in hand and Bracknell Bees, six points off the pace, have four games in hand.

Stars face a double header next week when they travel to Invicta Mustangs (12th) on Saturday and entertain second-bottom Swindon Wildcats II the following day.

Great week for young skiier

Skiing

OXFORD skiing sensation Adrian Yung finished off his week at the English Alpine Championships with another top-half finish to confirm his status as one of the country's best young skiers.

The 13-year-old skis for CDC Performance and has been competing in Bormio, Italy, at the Rossignol-sponsored event which showcases the next generation of top British skiers.

And the Oxfordshire alpine racer started his week off with his best result of the Championships, a seventh-place finish in the Super G, before taking 11th in the second Super G and 15th in the giant slalom.

"It's been alright here this week," the teenager said.

"I haven't quite got the results I was hoping for but I guess I'm coming away with plenty of things I need to work on and I've got plenty of ideas of what to do.

"My favourite thing this week was the Super G, I've done the best in that and I just enjoy all Super Gs I think, they are always a bit faster and more exhilarating.

"Bormio has been a great week overall anyway."

Yung is now planning on returning to training with the intention of breaking into the top five in his events, and will compete at the British Championships next month in pursuit of those goals.

■ Inspired by the performances at the 2018 English Alpine Championships and PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Games? Find out more on how to get involved in skiing and snowboarding through Snowsport England's national grassroots participation campaign at www.goskigoboard.org.uk

Sport

Chinnor up the pressure on high-fliers Cinderford

Rugby

CHINNOR continue to pile pressure on table-toppers Cinderford while Henley Hawks suffered a third straight defeat in a 13-try thriller away to Redruth on Saturday.

Second-placed Chinnor earned another bonus-point win as they ran out 24-19 victors over strugglers Old Redcliffians to move 15 points clear of Taunton Titans and Redingensians.

Henley's 49-38 defeat leaves them seventh in the National League Division Two South Table on 63 points.

Henley take on Taunton in their next league fixture on March 3, while Chinnor welcome Barnstaple.

Elsewhere, Grove slipped to a 45-3 defeat at Marlow to make it 16 defeats for the season leaving them in 13th on 27 points, one place above bottom club Bicester who shipped more then a century to Old Patesians, losing 109-7.

At the other end of the table, fifth-placed Witney fell 34-29 at Swindon, while Oxford Harlequins were no match for in-form second-placed Banbury whose 36-17 win earned them 10 straight victories.

In the Southern Counties North, Gosford All Blacks remain 11th on 10 points after losing 34-5 at home to Aylesbury.

Mid-table Didcot defeated bottom club Abingdon 19-15 in the Berks Bucks & Oxon Premier as Wheatley lost to league leaders Slough, while Littlemore remain ahead of the chasing pack after beating Milton Keynes 54-13.

Henley Hawks fought hard but could not stop a rampant Redruth
Picture: *Steve Karpa*

Oxfordshire football results

Vanarama National League South
Saturday 17 February
Truro City 2-3 **Oxford City**

Evo-Stik South Premier
Saturday 17 February
King's Lynn Town 1-1 **Banbury United**

Evo-Stik South East
Saturday 17 February
Bedford Town 1-0 **Thame United**

Evo-Stik South West
Saturday 17 February
Didcot Town 3-0 Evesham United
Kidlington 1-2 Larkhall Athletic
Wimborne Town 5-0 **North Leigh**

Uhlsport Hellenic League Premier Division
Saturday 17 February
Lydney Town 1-2 **Abingdon United**
Oxford City Nomads 0-2 Tuffley Rovers
Wantage Town 2-0 Fairford Town

Jack trumps King's to a point

By George Welch

Banbury United

UPBEAT Mike Ford was full of praise for his Banbury United players after stealing four points from high-flying teams in an encouraging couple of weeks.

United conceded a last minute equaliser at leaders King's Lynn Town on Saturday, adding to the three-points gained at in-form Slough Town the previous week.

Jack Self gave Banbury a shock second half lead against King's Lynn before Tony Hilliard grabbed a stoppage-time equaliser to share the points.

But for Ford the point was still a point gained, not two points lost.

"I'm pleased with the point," he said. "The late equaliser shouldn't detract from what was a fantastic performance.

"We've just taken four points on our travels against two of the sides that are going to be vying for the play-off or the championship at the end of the season. We should be really pleased with our efforts over the last couple of weeks and since the turn of the year our performances and results have shown really good steps forward."

United were indebted to goalkeeper Jack Harding who put on quite a show to thwart Liam Mettam, Michael Gash and Ryan Hawkins. Charlie Hawtin also had to be alert to clear a Hawkins effort off the line.

The deadlock was broken on 72 minutes when Leam Howards released Self, who calmly fired past Alex Street in the Linnets goal from 12 yards.

But Banbury failed to hold on as, in the third minute of stoppage time, Hilliard fired home from 10 yards to earn a point.

Ford added: "[It was a] good result, we would have taken the result before kick off and the disappointment comes because we conceded so late.

"But I thought as another movement forwards in the development of the team we were excellent."

The Puritans sit eighth, four points off the play-offs, but sixth-placed Slough Town and seventh-placed Royston Town have seven and three games in hand respectively.

Banbury have only lost twice in their 11 games this calendar year and are unbeaten in four matches.

They welcome Kings Langley (21st) to the Banbury Plant Community Stadium on Saturday.

Extra extra time winner for Abingdon

Hellenic round-up

A 95th minute winner from John Dennis earned Abingdon United a dramatic 2-1 win over Lydney Town as they continued their fine February form.

The left midfielder netted the all-important goal to extend United's winning run to three games in a month that has also seen the Vale side win the reverse fixture against Lydney and overcome Longlevens.

Charlie Bateman struck midway through the first half to give Abingdon the lead, but the teams went in at half time level after Frankie Johnson scored for the hosts two minutes before the break.

Lydney are now winless in 11 games and their lack of confidence proved pivotal as Dennis' delightful lob secured maximum points deep into added time.

Meanwhile, five-star Wantage Town continued their 100 per cent record for 2018 as they made it a quintuple of league wins with a 2-0 win over lowly Fairford Town.

Steve Robertson got the opener in the first half (34 minutes) and Nick Thorne (73) made the points secure with a second half strike.

Fairford were denied a way back into the game on 78 minutes when Curtis Meare saved Dan Reynolds' penalty.

Elsewhere, Oxford City Nomads lost their fourth successive game in all competitions with a 2-0 defeat at Tuffley Rovers.

Warren Mann gave Rovers the lead on the half hour mark before Nomads were reduced to 10 men. Shayne Anson added Tuffley's second on 90 minutes.

Birdies and bogeys pepper Eddie's 72-holes in Oman

Golf

ABINGDON golfer Eddie Pepperell had to settle for a tied-44th place finish at the NBO Oman Open – despite striking 15 birdies.

The Frilford Heath member also dropped shots on 11 holes – including three double bogeys – to finish one-under par on 287 following three rounds of 71 and a 74 to earn just over €7,000 in prize money.

Pepperell shot rounds of 71 to make the halfway cut in the inaugural tournament, with his Friday showing much steadier than the opening day.

A damaging third round, which consisted of a double-bogey seven at the 16th hole, meant he slipped 16 places to 49th with 18 holes to go.

Following a par front-nine on the final day, the 27-year-old looked like breaking 70 for the first time in the tournament, before dropping shots at both the 15th and 16th holes to finish with his third 71.

So a tied-44th place finish it was for Pepperell who survived the full tournament for the first time this year.

Dutchman Joost Luiten won the competition after carding a final round of 68 to finish on a 16-under-par 272. He finished two shots ahead of Englishman and closest rival Chris Wood.

Pepperell tees off from the 10th tee at the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters today (Thursday) at 7am local time, 4am GMT. The tournament is the final one of the Middle Eastern leg of the European Tour.

Youngsters put through the hoops at trial

Basketball

THREE young basketball players have been invited to trial for the South England Under-11 team in April.

Ten-year-olds Rhys Saunders, from All Saints C of E School in Didcot, and William Kent, from Marsh Gibbon C of E School in Bicester, impressed selectors so much the pair have been invited to a final selection session on April 8.

Eight-year-old Reeve Mahalingham, a pupil at Abingdon Preparatory School, was also asked to attend the April trials, but the Year 4 pupil is too young and will have to wait another year to compete at the Under-11 level.

The trio of South Oxfordshire Heat Basketball Club youngsters will be joined at the event by 25 other players from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Hampshire.

The club's trustees said: "One of our players [L.K. Mahalingham] was the only Oxfordshire-based player to be selected to play in the Under-11 National Tournament last season and Hustle [Kent] and Deadshot [Saunders] are continuing that basketball tradition.

"They have both been at almost every practice and their hard work in training and fighting spirit on the court has made the difference.

"The invitation to trial has only been extended to just over 20 players from the hundreds who play club basketball across four counties so it is a remarkable achievement to have made it this far."

The South England team will play other UK regions in the National Tournament in June.

William 'Hustle' Kent on the ball

Sam's the man as City comeback in Cornwall

By George Welch

Oxford City

SUPERSTAR Sam Nombe was the star of the show as Oxford City staged a stunning second half fight back against play-off side Truro City.

The Cornwall outfit stormed to a 2-0 lead but surrendered their advantage in the second session as City fought back in spectacular style.

The Hoops were two down within 20 minutes as goals from Ben Gerring (10 minutes) and Aaron Lamont (19) looked to have doomed Mark Jones' side to another away defeat.

Nombe came in for his first start in his second appearance and the forward led the fight back.

The Milton Keynes Dons loanee scored twice with a couple of composed finishes after a Matt Paterson penalty shortly after the restart got Oxford back into the game.

A jubilant Jones said it was "fantastic" comeback.

He said: "A lot of teams 2-0 down away from home in Truro might have caved in a bit but it shows the tremendous attitude of the players.

"We have been questioned quite a few times on various things but usually we bounce back.

"It's a great feeling when you come back from 2-0 down to win a game and we also showed some resilience in the last few minutes to defend things which was pleasing to see."

Sam Nombe, pictured in action against Hemel Hempstead, scored two goals on an impactful first start for City Picture: *Michael Allen*

The stunning 3-2 win lifted City two places to 15th before midweek games saw them slip to 16th.

But the latest triumph, which made it back-to-back wins for the first time since November, moved the Hoops to seven points above the relegation zone.

Unsurprisingly, Jones confessed going 2-0 down was not part of the plan – but he was proud of his players that staged the comeback.

He said after the game: "It was a good all round performance but, I'm not going to lie, we certainly didn't want to go 2-0 down – it wasn't part of the plan – but what a way to win a game.

"We should praise the players – they did great for us. It's certainly going to make the five-hour journey home a little bit more pleasurable."

City travel to third-placed Chelmsford City on Saturday.

Young U's to face Luton in final at Kassam

THE young U's will get a chance to show what they can do on a bigger stage when they welcome Luton Town in the regional final of the League Cup next month.

Oxford United's Under-18s will do battle with the Hatters' youngsters at the Kassam Stadium, with the winners set for a final against Wigan Athletic or Hartlepool United.

The game on March 31 will give the current crop of promising United young'uns a chance to play at Grenoble Road for the first time.

Oxford, who beat Exeter City in the last round, normally play their home games at Abingdon United's Northcourt Road but can look forward to a bigger occasion at the Kassam this time around.

Youth team coach Leon Blackmore Such said: "We'd like to thank everyone who has made it possible to play the game at the stadium.

"It's a big thing for the lads and I know they are really going to be looking forward to the game now.

"It's not just about playing on the pitch it's also about the whole experience."

He added: "It's the day after the first team play Scunthorpe at home so hopefully fans will come along and enjoy a game of football on a Saturday and we can get a decent crowd in to create a great atmosphere for the boys."

The regional final will kick off at 11am with ticket details to be announced by the club.

Teen's flying visit to captain Under 19s

IT was a hectic few days for young Canice Carroll who clocked up the air miles captaining Ireland Under-19s to a win against Romania in between Oxford United games.

The right back was on the bench for United's defeat at Rotherham on Tuesday last week, after which he flew out to meet up with the rest of the Irish squad.

The teenager, who turned 19 last month, missed the 1-0 friendly win against Romania on the Tuesday but skippered the side to a 2-1 victory against the same opposition in Murcia on Thursday.

Carroll said it was an "honour" to captain the youth international side.

He packed his bags again and flew back to Oxford the same day to train with the U's on Friday ahead of Oxford's 1-0 loss at home to Plymouth on Saturday.

Canice Carroll (no.2) captained Ireland Under-19s for the first time Picture: *FA Ireland*

Carroll, who has made 16 appearances for United this season, took his place on the bench again for the match.

The defender is yet to feature under caretaker manager Derek Fazackerley, with his last appearance being in Pep Clotet's last game in charge, a 2-1 home defeat to Bury on January 20. Carroll's only goal for the club came in the 3-2 loss at Bradford on December 30.

Two second-half goals from Shamrock Rovers' Aaron Dobbs, currently on loan at Wexford, secured back-to-back wins for Ireland.

Didcot Town players celebrate Ollie Thomas' goal – the Railwaymen's third – in a massive win over Evesham United. Picture: *Roger Neal*

Second half goals seal win

Evo Stik round-up

A HUGE 3-0 home win against fellow promotion contenders Evesham United maintained Didcot Town's Evo-Stik South West play-off charge.

It took three second half goals from Felipe Barcelos, George Jeacock and Olli Thomas to secure the points for Diddy.

The Railwaymen overtook their hosts, who slipped out of the play-offs, into fourth place with the win.

Following a goalless first half, the game exploded into life with a couple of quickfire Didcot goals from Barcelos and Jeacock.

Thomas wrapped up the points in added time with a wonderful 25-yard strike that shot into the top corner.

Kidlington lost their first game at Yarnton Road since August with a 2-1 home defeat against Larkhall Athletic.

The Larks took the lead when Matt Britton side footed home on 69 minutes.

Mark Janes nodded in the equaliser less than 10 minutes later, but the away side won the game thanks to an 83rd minute Joe Tumelty thunderbolt.

Struggling North Leigh's winless 2018 continued with a 5-0 hammering at Wimborne Town. The Millers are now winless in 10 matches.

Meanwhile, in the East division, Thame United's inconsistent form continued with their third defeat in six matches, a run that also includes three wins.

United lost 1-0 at Bedford Town, leaving them in 11th place on 42 points from 27 games, 12 points off the play-offs with games in hand.

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Blackburn Rovers	33	28	66
2	Shrewsbury Town	33	17	65
3	Wigan Athletic	30	38	63
4	Rotherham United	33	18	59
5	Scunthorpe United	34	12	56
6	Charlton Athletic	32	4	51
7	Plymouth Argyle	34	0	50
8	Bradford City	33	-2	50
9	Portsmouth	34	0	49
10	Peterborough United	32	8	46
11	Gillingham	34	1	46
12	Bristol Rovers	33	-3	45
13	Southend United	33	-9	44
14	Doncaster Rovers	34	0	42
15	Oxford United	33	-2	41
16	Walsall	32	-3	41
17	Blackpool	33	-4	39
18	AFC Wimbledon	33	-9	37
19	Northampton Town	34	-22	37
20	Fleetwood Town	33	-11	36
21	Oldham Athletic	33	-12	36
22	MK Dons	32	-15	30
23	Bury	33	-23	26
24	Rochdale	28	-11	25

Sport

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More sport inside: Golf: Tied 44th finish for Eddie Pepperell | City: Sam Nbome star of Hoops' stunning comeback | F1: 2018 cars unveiled

Fight and belief will help us improve performance

By George Welch

Oxford United 0

Plymouth Argyle 1

Sonny Bradley 45+3

Attendance: 8,301 (1,802 away)

STRUGGLING Oxford United slipped to within five points of the League One relegation zone with a narrow 1-0 loss at home to in-form Plymouth Argyle on Saturday.

The result was not much of a surprise given the current form table but even a much improved performance could not stop the U's falling to a fifth defeat in six matches.

Sonny Bradley's header in first half stoppage time proved to be the winner as sorry United lost their third successive match at the Kassam.

Midfielder Ryan Ledson admitted the squad is suffering from a lack of confidence, but that he was encourage by an improved performance.

The 20-year-old said: "We passed them off the park in the first half... [but] we've got to keep striving forward and hopefully put in more performances like that.

"It was our final ball or shot that let us down. We were getting into the positions, it's just time to put them away. There's maybe a lack of belief. Every team would be down with the run we're on – but we've got to keep fighting and believing."

Oxford are struggling for confidence and, on another day, James Henry and Alex Mowatt would have scored their first half chances. The latter was particularly culpable, blazing horribly wide from a Todd Kane cut back.

Picture: *Steve Daniels*

Isaac Buckley-Ricketts is tackled by Sonny Bradley who went on to score Plymouth's goal and net the three points

Caretaker boss Derek Fazackerley noticed an all-round improvement from his players.

He said: "The performance was head and shoulders above the previous week [a 2-1 home defeat to Bristol Rovers] when we were critical of the players.

"We asked them to play with courage, discipline and control and I thought they did that.

"We pretty much had them on the back foot for most of the second half but just couldn't find a clear cut opening."

Former United striker Ryan Taylor struck Simon Eastwood's bar and Kane cleared a Graham Carey effort off the line as the Pilgrims hunted a second goal.

Oxford, 15th on 41 points, became more threatening when Gino van Kessel and Malachi Napa were introduced but the U's just could not force an opening.

Fazackerley admitted his side faces a "tough" fixture when they travel to Northampton Town, who sit one place above the relegation zone, on Saturday.

Rothwell out for few weeks with injury

THERE was good news and bad news from the Oxford United treatment room this week.

Midfielder Joe Rothwell, *pictured*, limped off in the first half of Saturday's defeat to Plymouth Argyle and had a scan on Monday.

The bad news is that he will miss the next few weeks but the good news is that the injury was not as bad as it first appeared.

United's head of sports science and medicine said on Tuesday that there was no tear as first feared. Instead, there is 'a relatively small irritation' at the top of the 23-year-old's hamstring.

Andrew Procter added: "It's not related to his previous injury and it's certainly not a dramatic tear, it's just bad luck that he picks up a new injury after successfully coming back from the last one.

"So now we know precisely what we are dealing with and can start working with Joe to get him out on the pitch again.

"We have to be careful with it and we won't be setting timescales on his return until everything settles down a little but he has a fantastic attitude, understands what needs to be done and hopefully he won't be out for too long."

The former Manchester United trainee has scored five goals in 32 appearances for the U's this season.

■ Right back Sam Long, 23, has extended his initial month stay at Hampton & Richmond Borough for a further month.

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